



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 22.43 Thursday, October 27, 2016 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Independent's Maxine Heifner dead at 85

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Maxine Heifner, who in 1994 first had the idea to start a new newspaper in Belleville to tell both sides of the story, died Sunday at the age of 85.

Maxine was an ultra-enthusiastic Republican, but she and other organizers gathered together community members who were avid Democrats and added a Libertarian until there were 12 investors --enough to start a paper at a \$1,000 investment apiece.

It all started in late 1994 when Maxine and her husband George (who died in 2010) were in Arizona and Rosemary Otzman, who just got a computer, made up little newspapers to keep them informed on what was going on in Van Buren Township,

where they lived.

Ron Manley at the Belleville Print Shop had a fax machine, so Otzman took the weekly newspapers there and Manley faxed them to Arizona.

Manley also made a few copies to put on his counter to give to customers.

That little newspaper grew into the *Independent* and Maxine and George Heifner worked tirelessly to help get content for the paper, deliver the papers to drop-off points at stores, and do anything they could to help.

Maxine was teased by the owner of the meat market then next to the Belleville Police Department about all the money she was making with this free newspaper because she delivered it each week in a fancy Lincoln.

Maxine and George, as a team, covered the swearing in of Tina Brooks Green as 34th District Court Judge for the first time. They loved covering parades and veterans' events.

Maxine's most compelling interest was politics at every level. She got up and spoke at township board meetings and, at one point, organized a full Republican slate to run against the incumbent Democrats.

Maxine donated her financial expertise to the *Independent* for years, setting up the bookkeeping and going after advertisers who refused to pay their bills. They hated to see her coming because she didn't give up.

George was an electrician (as well as a Marine who served in World War II) and he wired up the *Independent* production

room and took pictures for the paper. He was especially adept at climbing up high on structures to take long shots of events like the annual bridge walk.

When the couple moved to Arizona and then to South Carolina and then to Brownstown Township, they received their *Independents* every week and Maxine pored over the weekly financial reports.

A few weeks ago, she sent a message to the investors that she thought it was time for another rate hike.

Maxine didn't like Donald Trump's candidacy when the primaries were on, but after he was nominated, she softened a bit. "I'm not voting for Hillary!" she stated.

She filled out her absentee ballot and voted before she died.

(Full obituary on page 7)

Oh, the leaves

This year the Belleville City Council took the free city DPW leaf pickup out of the city budget to save about \$16,000. Last Thursday was the first trash/yard waste pickup day since the leaves started falling. John Juriga filled his yard-waste bags with leaves and set them out in front of his house on East Huron River Drive for pickup by the Republic Waste trash trucks. He said this is just the beginning, since his big, old trees still hold lots of leaves. He said over past years he would just rake the leaves to the curb and city crews would suck them up with machinery and carry them away. Now that is just a fond memory.

Photo courtesy of John Juriga



Black Lives Matter planned protest at BHS goes off peacefully

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A Black Lives Matter peaceful protest was planned for the Belleville High School home football game against Lincoln High School on Friday -- and it went off as

promised: peacefully.

"It was wonderful," said Van Buren Public Schools Supt. Pete Kudlak. "It worked really well."

He said the organizer of the protest was DaQuann Harrison, 17, and he reached

out to the district and told of his plans and discussed it with them.

He said the students were very compliant at every step.

"It was just kids trying to discuss a topic that was very important to them," Supt. Kudlak said.

He said people were calling and emailing him saying this shouldn't be approved on school property.

"But it's a student protest and what better place for students than at a school?" he

asked. "We need to teach them and what better place than at a school?"

"It was a great model for our students to see," Kudlak said.

Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman said everything went fine on Friday and there was not a single incident.

He said DaQuann met with both superintendents and the police department to discuss the protest and a plan was worked out.

(continued on page 10)

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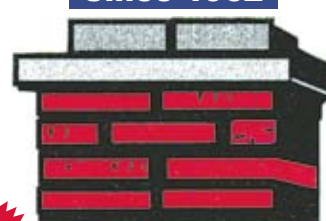
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Belleville DDA votes to bring in six new sculptures for 2017

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The city of Belleville Downtown Development Authority voted unanimously at its Oct. 19 meeting to provide six new outdoor sculptures for the DDA district for the 2017 season.

DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson said the Van Buren Township DDA has agreed to work with the Belleville DDA again and get some sculptures for the VBT DDA district.

The 2016 project was the first time the two DDAs had worked together on the sculptures. Belleville got six sculptures and VBT got four, for a total of ten sculptures from the Midwest Sculpture Initiative.

The DDA Public Art Committee, who chose the sculptures for 2016, was Sabrina Richardson-Williams and Rosemary Loria of the Belleville DDA, Councilman Tom Fielder, President of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts Doug Dalton, VBT DDA Deputy Executive Director Lisa Lothringer, and Belleville DDA Coordinator Thompson.

Thompson said the Belleville DDA spent \$5,000 to \$5,500 a year for the sculptures, with fund raising for the rest of the cost.

Thompson said this year she would like

to have DDA members get together to brainstorm on fund raising, since the same donors have been supporting the project.

In other business in the 26-minute meeting, the DDA:

- Was informed the presentation by Terra Firma on Village Park ponds was cancelled because of a death in the family. The presentation is expected to be on the Nov. 16 agenda;

- Agreed to organize holiday events to encourage local shopping and dining after Thompson said she was approached by business owners who would like to take part in a Downtown Holiday Shop Local Promotion. The DDA approved staff time, printing, and advertising costs. Preliminary plans call for the project to launch on Shop Small Saturday, Nov. 26, being highlighted during Winter Fest, and completed by Christmas. Thompson said the DDA cannot award cash or purchase prizes with TIF money and may need businesses to donate or sponsor the promotional campaign;

- Discussed the District Maintenance Calendar, with Thompson reporting they plan to winterize the kayak launch a week after its use for the fall canoe event. She said two of the district's newer trees were

(continued on page 16)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Dogs up for adoption from Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue were part of the Oct. 15 Monster Mutt Walk on Fourth Street in Belleville. At left is Barry with FMAR board member Cathy Boatman and Jasmine with Jessica Panko, who writes the FMAR columns published in the *Independent* each week. Panko said Jessica, who was featured in the Oct. 13 *Independent*, has a family who wants to adopt her.



Photos by Amanda Taylor, J.A. Taylor Photography

Winners of the Cutest category in the Oct. 15 Monster Mutt Walk in Belleville were, from left, Macy, owned by Becky Pepin, first place; Dixie, owned by Angelica Armstrong, second place; and Sofie Rosie, owned by Karen LaBelle, third place.



Winners of the Scariest category in the Monster Mutt Walk were, from left, Myrna and Skippy, owned by Sharon Fewless, third place; Zeus, owned by Margaret Fera, first place; and Max, owned by Pamela Maus, second place.



Winners of the Best Mutt & Family category were, from left, Pugle and Shadow, owned by Sandy, Kathy, and Sherry Cross, first place; Vivie, owned by Mendie Russell (with her daughters), second place; and Trixxie and Avalanche, owned by Kevin and Allison Robertson, third place.

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

VBT DDA gives Aerotropolis one more chance

After discussing the poor investment of \$25,000 a year the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority has been making since 2009 to Aerotropolis, the DDA decided to give it one more chance. It authorized another payment of \$25,000 to Aerotropolis. This makes \$200,000 the VBT DDA has allocated to Aerotropolis without a payback.

At Tuesday’s meeting, the DDA spent more than an hour listening to Aerotropolis representatives say what they are going to do for VBT and hearing DDA members question the \$25,000 yearly costs that have brought nothing in return.

Marco Salomone, the full-time director of business development for Detroit Region Aerotropolis, when questioned, said Huron Township had dropped out of Aerotropolis (not paying dues), Belleville does not pay dues, Ypsilanti Township pays just \$15,000 and the City of Ypsilanti also asked for a \$10,000 waiver. Wayne County pays \$100,000; Washtenaw County pays \$50,000, DTE pays \$10,000 and the Airport Authority paid \$90,000 for a marketing event and will pay again for such an event next year.

Whether a community pays or not that community is still on the map in the Aerotropolis literature that pushes seven communities between the Willow Run and Metro airports. Salomone admitted there had been a “failure to launch...study after study” and more flash and pizzazz than tackling and scoring for Aerotropolis.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We’re all going to miss Maxine Heifner, who died Sunday at the age of 85. She was at the heart of the *Independent’s* birth and early years – and still watched over our finances every week.

Her cheerful personality was catchy and her laughter, as well. She and her husband George were a team, ready to help us at any time, with any thing.

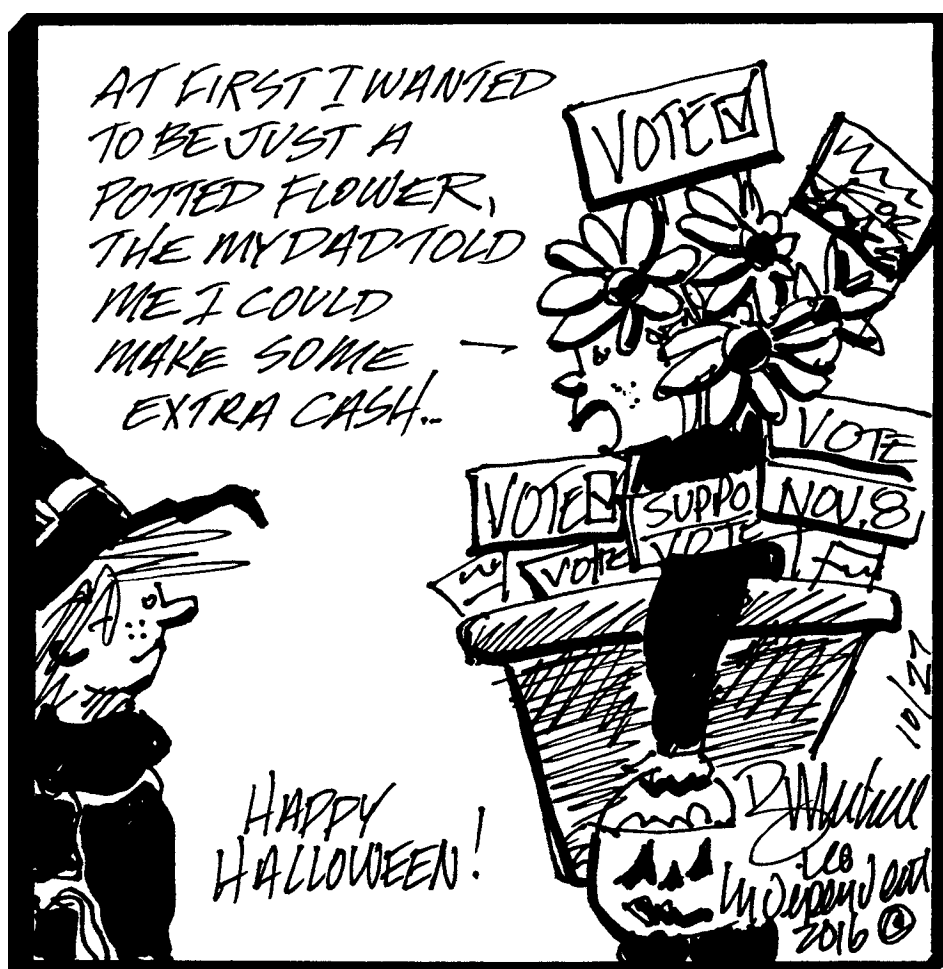
She loved to argue politics and tells tales of how she used to fight in the streets of Lincoln Park as a youngster. She didn’t back down.

When Maxine and George lived in Columbia, South Carolina, they invited me down for a visit and I left here after delivering the *Independents* on Thursday and came home on Sunday. They took me around the area and through the statehouse in Columbia where Maxine led tours as a volunteer. So interesting – especially the dents in the foundation from cannon ball shots in the Civil War.

And then there was Charleston, where George took me through a large vessel moored and on display to the public. It was wonderful. We even went through a submarine there.

The *Independent* investors don’t meet very often, but over the past few years as her health deteriorated, Maxine used to come to the meetings on a cane and then a walker, but always ready to put in her two cents and argue with the Democrat members.

She started having coughing fits over the past few years, after she and George took a trip to Ireland, and she thinks there was something in the air on that long trip by plane that set this off. Sometimes we’d



have to hang up in the middle of a phone conversation because she couldn’t breathe.

But, she didn’t give up until she had to.

Over the years, I’ve been visiting George’s gravesite at Hillside Cemetery to make sure he had a flag and to say hello. Now, I’ll be able to say hi to Maxine, as well. They always were a great team.

The Van Buren Education Association, the local unit of the MEA union, has endorsed the slate of four newcomers running for seats on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education.

The union usually has interviews for candidates to decide who to support. This time, I’m told, they didn’t invite Keith Johnston or Dave Peer to be interviewed and made their decision without talking to them.

On Tuesday, the VBEA president Marcus said the MEA office in Plymouth sent out the mailing to eight candidates 30 days in advance and only six responded. I was t/ old they sent the mailing to the address on the candidates’ filing papers.

Johnston and Peer said they didn’t get anything to respond to. Needless to say, they are disappointed that they weren’t even considered for the endorsement.

It may have looked, to motorists, like a fatal accident at about 10 p.m. Friday on Belleville Road, just south of the I-94 South Service Drive in front of the bank.

But, VBT Police tell me it was a personal injury accident on Belleville Road and the subject survived.

We heard on our scanner a recent early-morning police call in Sumpter Township for a six-year-old child who wouldn’t come out of her bedroom to go to school. They called the police?

During the highly spirited discussion on whether the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority wanted to pay another \$25,000 to continue to be a member of the Detroit Region Aerotropolis, VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development Ron Akers made a statement.

He said that he recalls in his training someone told him, this is a “shots on goal game,” referring to getting developers to come to the township.

“We just learned the Zamboni wasn’t even on the ice,” replied DDA member Ron Blank.

The Aerotropolis representatives had admitted that the organization hasn’t been doing much since it organized in 2009 and spent more time deciding on its name and changing it than doing economic development as it said it would do.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

Editor: Rosemary K. Otzman
Home phone (no ads, please!): 697-8290

Advertising Manager: Bob Mytych

Sports Editor: Bob Mytych

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager: James Otzman

Office Manager: Janet Millard

Business Manager: Gerald McKelvey

Editorial Cartoonist: Bob Mytych

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Letters

Why we still need to 'Save Our Schools'

To the Editor,

I was recently asked, "Isn't Save Our Schools a bit drastic? We have a new superintendent and the Savage teachers are back to work."

Things are better now. Mr. Kudlak has done a great job in implementing change to the culture of VBPS — teachers and other disciplines are reporting that they are happier and that the work climate has vastly improved. The positive effect of this change is clearly visible to parents and teachers, however we still need to **Save Our Schools** as the work is not done.

The Board of Education has direct oversight over ONE employee — the superintendent. The current board gave this one employee (the predecessor superintendent) a "highly effective" evaluation each year and continued to extend the superintendent's contract, but the reality was far different. The reality was that the superintendent was not highly effective and that some of the evidence was clear from the fact that the school district was losing teachers and administrators by the dozens — some of whom were leaving for districts that paid less and were farther away from their homes --and this did not even create an iota of concern among the members of the board.

No exit interviews were performed (despite community requests) and the Superintendent was NEVER questioned about the turnover rate among the district employees. Then there were the actions of last winter with regards to the Savage situation. Just in case you have forgotten, here are some of the lowlights:

- Our school board was not aware that the Savage teachers were going to be escorted out of the building during school hours and in front of their students.

- When parents and community members showed up at school board meetings to express their concerns, the school board members would not respond to them. On several occasions the school board members did not look them in the eye when they spoke. Check out the Savage Strong/Van Buren Strong Schools Facebook page for photos of the board members looking at their iPads as people addressed them.

- The School Board and former superintendent held a "Town Hall" meeting via telephone, at cost to the district, rather than meeting with the community in person.

- The school board dragged out the Savage situation for months, resulting in the Savage students being without their teachers for half of the year, the teachers being placed in limbo, and the legal bills continuing to

mount.

• The school board wrote a letter to the editor of the Belleville Independent and said that the parents and community members who expressed their concerns at the school board meeting were "an embarrassment to the community and a terrible example to the students that are watching." This letter was signed by all board of education members except for Mrs. Sherry Frazier.

There is DEFINITELY work needed to Save Our Schools. Please consider your options when voting for school board this election. I will be voting for Victor DeLibera, Susan Featheringill, Darlene Loyer Gerick and Simone Pinter as I feel Van Buren Public Schools needs a board of education who does not consider constituents who have concerns to be an embarrassment to the community.

Andrea VanDenBergh
 Van Buren Township

You cannot color the truth with lies

To the Editor,

You cannot color the truth with lies.

Throughout my career, I have been apolitical. I never voted for a Bush or a Barack. I did vote for Bill Clinton once, against Bush 41 and his oil oligarchy.

Let's review the facts:

Let criminals out. Let illegals in.

Let boys in the girls' locker room. Let women kill their offspring.

Prosecute innocent officers. Persecute Christians. Accept barbarity in the form of Islam.

Overtax the hardworking. Coddle the lazy.

This is what Democrats have created in America. Barack's left liberal, progressive, socialist experiment has failed miserably.

This is not who I am. I am a capitalist who believes in the constitution unabridged.

We need real change and that is why I am supporting the Trump movement.

I serve Jesus, not Allah. Amen.

Charles Tackett III

A Drafted Vietnam War Vet

I support Oddy, Swinson, LaPorte

To the Editor,

I am very thankful for the opportunity over the last six months to have gotten to see the inner makings of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees.

Watching the board do its due-diligence in protecting Sumpter Township residents is exciting!

I would like to say that I proudly support Matt Oddy, Don Swinson, and Don LaPorte for trustees to continue to represent the residents of Sumpter Township.

I have personally watched all three candidates, as they have been very actively involved in our community!

Please let's remember how important it is to get out and cast our vote! Your vote makes a difference!

Jennifer Price

Sumpter Township resident

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More Letters

Agrees with 'Dumb Feminist' letter

To the Editor,

In reply to last week's "Dumb Feminist" letter to the editor, a Big, "Hear, Hear!" I couldn't have said it better! Go, girl.

I.H., Belleville Resident

"Do or do not. There is no try."

— Yoda



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Obituaries



Maxine Opal Heifner

MAXINE OPAL HEIFNER

(June 19, 1931 - October 23, 2016)

Maxine Heifner of Riverview, MI and longtime Belleville/Van Buren resident, died peacefully in Dansville, MI early Sunday morning, October 23, at the age of 85.

Maxine is the loving wife of the late George (d.2010); dear mother of David (Debbie) Duane of Dansville, Debby (Cliff) McCurdy of New Boston, Terry (Pam) Duane of Clio, Sandy (the late Jimmy) Claiborn of Florida and Mark (Christine) Heifner of Florida. She is the cherished grandmother of Sean (Carli) Luce, Steve (Laura) Duane, Andy (Meghan) Duane, Dan Duane, Brad Duane, Chris Claiborn and Matt (Kelli) Heifner and Kim Heifner. She is also survived by her beloved seven great-grandchildren. Sadly, she is preceded in death recently by her cat, "Sage."

Born in Lincoln Park, MI on June 19, 1931 to John and Charlotte Turtle, Maxine earned her degree in accounting and practiced for many years. Politics was a passion of hers, and she enjoyed following both local and national levels of it, making sure her views were known. Following the Detroit Tigers and cooking were also enjoyments, especially spending time with her family.

A funeral service has been arranged for 11:00 AM, Thursday, October 27, 2016 at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. (734) 697-4500. Visiting hours have been arranged for Wednesday from 4 until 8 PM and one hour prior to the service.

Interment will be held privately at Hillside Cemetery, Belleville. Memorial tributes may be directed to Heartland Hospice of Mason.

WALTER LEE MORRELL

(October 23, 1951 - October 24, 2016)

Age 65, of Sumpter Township. Survived by wife Tammie, children Josh and Jessica, grandchild Bailey. Funeral is noon Friday at David C. Brown Funeral Home. Visitation 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. Thursday and hour before funeral.

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Oct. 27 – Van Buren Township final budget session for proposed 2017 budget and amended 2016 budget, 9 a.m. to about 4 p.m. On this day's agenda are Public Safety budget, 9 a.m. to noon; DDA budget, 1:15 to 1:45 p.m.; and Recreation, Parks, Lake from 2 to 3 p.m., followed by board discussion from 3 to 4 p.m.

- Monday, Nov. 7 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, Nov. 8 – Election Day. No meetings.

- Wednesday, Nov. 9 – Van Buren Township Local Development Financing Authority, 2 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

More Letters

Community Art Show is Nov. 4-6 at BYC

To the Editor,

7th Annual Belleville Area Community Art Show

NOVEMBER 4 - 6

Belleville Yacht Club

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts (BACA) is proud to announce its 7th-Annual Belleville Area Community Art Show, a non-juried show that affords local artists (ages 6+) the opportunity to showcase their creativity in a wide array of media and compete for cash awards.

The Community Art Show was created to provide an important opportunity for budding artists to witness public response and garner support of their efforts, as well as vie for show awards and the chance to meet potential mentors.

It also serves as a popular platform for established artists to showcase their newest works.

We invite everyone to come out and join us at this popular event!

OPENING RECEPTION

FRIDAY, NOV. 4, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The show will kick-off on Friday, Nov. 4 with a special reception at the Belleville Yacht Club (BYC). The event, which is open to art show entrants, family, friends and supporters (public welcome), will allow participants to meet the artists, view exhibits, enjoy light refreshments and a cash bar and an opportunity to mingle with guests.

Community Art Show winners will be announced at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBIT OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, NOV. 5, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. &

SUNDAY, NOV. 6, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

There is no entry fee to attend the exhibit open house, which is open to the public on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. and again on Sunday, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

EXHIBIT APPLICATIONS

Exhibit applications are being accepted through Friday, Oct. 28. Entry forms are available at the Belleville Area District Library, Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, Belleville Yacht Club, Frosty Boy, Garden Fantasy on Main, the Professional Building, Sumpter Ace Hardware, Twisted Rooster and Van Buren Township Hall. Entry forms and additional information is also available by calling 734-357-8000 or visiting bacaartshow.org

MEMBERS WELCOME

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts (BACA) welcomes new members to join its organization, which was founded to promote arts and cultural activities in the greater Belleville area.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

We encourage any parties interested in attending our meetings, which are open to the public. Our next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Yacht Club.

The Belleville Yacht Club is located at 831 East Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111.

For additional information visit: bacaart.org

Jackie Berg, corresponding secretary
Belleville Area Council for the Arts

More Letters

Photo courtesy of Katy Reitz



Renton Junior High football team is great

To the Editor,

Just reaching out to you to see if you could give some well deserved attention to a group of boys and one girl on the Renton Junior High Football team. Renton is located in the Huron/New Boston school district.

Last year the boys had an amazing season their 7th-grade year and were the first to be undefeated since 2012. The coaches were proud and the 2012 team was amazed that another team had an undefeated season, too.

Well this year, that same group of boys and a girl, had a second undefeated season for their 8th-grade year. Not sure this has ever happened.

There was locker room chatter that maybe an undefeated season could happen. In the beginning, it was just a dream. Each game they played, they aimed to win. As the end of the season drew closer, the boys started to aim high and just maybe they could be undefeated.

The coaches, Coach Hobbins, Coach K. & Coach Terry, kept these boys grounded and reminded them they didn't have a win in the bag until the clock ran out. And they encouraged them to win and to play hard until the very last second of the very last game. Then, they celebrated!

Here's what one of the coaches wrote about the team:

"Congratulations to the 8th grade Chiefs who ended their junior high run with a win to go a perfect 12-0. This is a tremendous group of kids from top to bottom. I have never been around a group of kids that were so coachable, well-behaved, and leaps and bounds ahead of most in terms of talent, team unity and unselfishness. Look for Big things from these kids as they move up to the next level and continue to develop. Coach K, we wish you the best. We've had a good run."

Here's the list of the teams we played in order, along with the score.

Belleville 22-15
Jefferson 26-13
Woodhaven 22-12
Schumate (Carlson) 33-0
Wager (Airport) 43-12
Lincoln Park 20-0
Eighth-grade coaches: Coach Terry, Coach

K, Coach Hobbins.

Attached is a file of pictures from their season. Feel free to use, but please give me credit for the pics as I stood on the sidelines for every game and took these pictures. Thank you!

Thank you in advance for considering this story on a group of amazing young boys that were well-coached and loved the game so much that they never missed practice or a game unless they absolutely had to.

Thank you,
Katy Reitz

Honor and Remember to honor fallen heroes

To the Editor,

Michigan Chapter - Honor and Remember, Inc. would like to invite the citizens of the city of Belleville, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township, and surrounding communities to attend the Elements / Flag Presentations for two families who lost a loved one while serving in our Armed Forces.

One family is from Belleville and the other family is from Riverview. The place is Belleville High School Main Auditorium, 555 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville. The date is Friday, Nov. 4. The time is 6 p.m.

We will honor their sacrifice and remember them individually by name.

Your attendance will show that you support our military personnel and their families and that you will remember the sacrifice that was given by both the fallen hero and their loved ones.

Thank you,

LeRoy Paige, Director, Michigan Chapter - Honor and Remember, Inc.

So many enjoyed BHS Alumni Reunion

To the Editor,

I found a quote that explains why so many people enjoyed the 15th annual Belleville High School Alumni Reunion, held in the High School Commons on Sept. 17:

"That's the fun of going to a high school reunion; it's seeing the people who you were close to all those years ago, and re-exploring the relationships of the past." (Jon Hurwitz)

Graduates from five decades, the '30s to the '70s, attended. Dorothy Ticknor represented the Class of 1934. Darryl Raymond, and Elaine and Harvey Stabnau, brought back members of the Class of 1946. Gerald McKelvey and friends from the Class of 1956 celebrated their 60-year mark. Members of the Class of 1966 were encouraged to return for their 50th year by Linda Hogan.

There are so many people to thank for their assistance. Rosemary Otzman and the *Belleville Area Independent* were extremely helpful in getting the date out to the public and subsequent pictures in the paper. The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Belleville Area District Library, and the VBPS Administration allowed us to leave invitations at their locations.

Area businesses permitted us to display our informational posters. We are indebted to Shelly Brown-Chudzinski and Jackie Dalzell of the Brown Family Center who let us use their office space for meetings.

Superintendent Peter Kudlak gave us his full support. We were pleased to see our event posted on the district and high school websites. We'd like to express our gratitude to Pam Johnson in the Superintendent's Office; high school student, Timmy, at the reception desk; James Williams, Deb Evans, Steve Jones, and Greg Harris in the Building & Grounds Department; BHS Principal Stacey Buhro, Assistant Principal Dan Wright, Cori Kidder and her

National Honor Society members Hannah, Tyler, Lauren, and David; Carolyn Brooks in the kitchen; and Charlie Kotcher and student, Tyler, in the School Store. It was a pleasure to bring classmates back to such a welcoming environment.

We have a great group of people who donate their time to make this event happen. The Reunion Committee is comprised of one to two members of each graduating class. We hold monthly meetings, May through October. All BHS graduates are encouraged to join us. Please follow us on Facebook at Belleville HS Alumni Reunion, contact us by phone at (734) 787-4601, or Email bellevilleallclass@gmail.com for information on the 2017 Reunion.

Linda Clayton
BHS Alumni Reunion Chair

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Court Watching:**Judge Green reduces charge against Cynthia Richards in VBT**

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The misdemeanor charge of aggravated assault against Cynthia Elizabeth Richards, 24, of Van Buren Township was reduced to a charge of disorderly person after a lively Oct. 19 trial with a hostile witness who was thought to be the victim.

34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green and Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Doug Dwyer worked together to sort out the confusing aspects of what happened on Aug. 24 at 6555 Outer Drive in Van Buren Township.

Richards said everybody was drunk and so nobody knows what happened.

She told Judge Green that if she is found guilty of aggravated assault she will be automatically fired from her job as a pharmacy technician because the State of Michigan will not allow pharmacists with violent backgrounds to be licensed.

She said seven years ago she had a domestic violence charge.

At the end of all the deliberations, Judge Green found her guilty of being a disorderly person and deferred sentencing for one year. If Richards stays out of trouble for a year, the case will be wiped from her record.

"It is not reported," Judge Green stressed, "as long as there's no trouble for a year."

Richards said she goes to Alcoholics Anonymous three times a week because she can't afford other treatment.

Judge Green added proof of weekly AA meetings to her guidelines.

Richards said she drug tests every week and, "I don't need any guidance."

Judge Green said she is ordering no costs and at the end of the year the charge is dismissed.

"No fines or costs and keep going to AA," Judge Green said, as the court session ended.

Richards had explained that her drug of choice is cocaine and she has been off that. She goes to AA instead of NA because the AA meetings are closer to her home and

she cannot afford other treatment.

"We don't want her to lose her job or put back her recovery," Prosecutor Dwyer said.

He said he offered as good a deal as he could to her, including disorderly person, and she turned him down on all of it.

Dwyer said they could dismiss the charge, but Judge Green said no, "If not procedurally correct, it's out of the box."

The trial started with hostile witness Helena Marie Weeks, mother of the accused, who told Judge Green at an earlier court session that she would not testify against her daughter and if they tried to serve her a subpoena she would disappear and they wouldn't be able to find her.

VBT Detective Mark Buxton tried to serve her and after many attempts, left the subpoena in her door. It fell on the ground and she said it is still there.

When the trial was first set, the mother didn't show up and the court-appointed defense attorney asked for a dismissal. Judge Green, instead, told Det. Buxton to make greater efforts to get her in to testify.

On Oct. 19, Weeks took the stand. She testified that on the day in question she was drinking heavily and was working on her second fifth of Canada House whiskey. She said she started drinking alone and later her boyfriend and her son were there.

"I don't remember much of that day at all," Weeks testified under oath.

She said her boyfriend works at Bridgewater Tire and was at work at the moment.

She said she doesn't remember her daughter getting arrested. She testified she kept trying to call her daughter that night, but got no response so she called the Van Buren Township police in the morning and found out Cynthia was in custody.

"Nobody told you your daughter assaulted you?" Prosecutor Dwyer asked and she replied, "I don't remember."

Judge Green reminded Weeks that she came to court about one and a half months ago and said her daughter had enough issues and she wouldn't testify against her.

"I drank two fifths of liquor and I don't remember what happened," Weeks insisted.

"You said you weren't coming back," Judge Green reminded her and Weeks

replied, "I came of my own free will today. I never got served."

Prosecutor Dwyer said Weeks avoided Det. Buxton and Weeks said he stuck it in the door and it fell on the ground and "I never touched it."

She testified a neighbor picked it up, a "nosey neighbor."

Dwyer asked her if the neighbor read it and told her what it was and Weeks replied, "It's still where the wind blew it."

Dwyer asked Judge Green for a continuance of the proceedings so police could go get Weeks' boyfriend at his work to bring him as a witness.

"He's never been served," Weeks said.

Det. Buxton said he has sat at their house and knocked on the door. He said he could drive out to Bridgewater Tire and serve him.

Judge Green decided against a continuance and the trial continued.

Second witness was VBT Police Officer Mark King, who testified he was sent out to 6555 Outer Drive on Aug. 24 and found chaos, with people walking around out in the street.

Officer King said when he arrived Weeks was in the ambulance being treated for a three inch laceration. Richards was out in the street intoxicated.

Officer King said neighbors told him she had physically assaulted her mother, so he took her into custody.

He testified that David Lake, Sr. and Jr. were in the trailer and both said Cynthia pushed down her mother and her mother fell down, and then she pushed her down again and she hit her head.

"My little brother is 12 and has no common sense," Richards said.

Prosecutor Dwyer offered to alter the charge from aggravated assault to drunk and disorderly or disorderly person, based on the officer's testimony.

Judge Green talked about Weeks' persistent refusal to testify or appear and testimony that everyone was intoxicated and the police were called.

Weeks tried to speak from the courtroom and Judge Green told her to leave the courtroom. Weeks yelled out she was going to call her attorney.

Judge Green said in light of the circumstances and the statements made to

the officer on that day, and that the mother's statement that her biggest concern was she didn't want her daughter to lose her job, she would consider the statements to the officer "excited utterances" and she would find the defendant guilty as charged.

Then, they discussed Richards' statement that nobody remembers anything about what happened and her fears about losing her job.

"The difficulty of the witnesses shouldn't be on her head," Judge Green said. That's when she amended the charge to disorderly person and Richards said she would appeal.

Judge Green said she could appeal, if she wanted, but she explained in detail that the disorderly charge would not be recorded unless she did something wrong over the next year.

After the court session was over, Weeks came back to the court and told Magistrate/Court Administrator Al Hindman to pass a message on to Judge Green: "Thank you very much."

Judge Green said later, "That was a very happy ending to the story."

Audrey Brantley

Audrey Brantley, 47, waived her preliminary exam on charges of possession of narcotics or cocaine and operating with a high blood alcohol content on Dec. 5, 2015 in VBT. She was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information Nov. 2.

She is free after posting \$5,000/10% bond. Her court-appointed attorney is Christopher Shemke and VBT Det. Ken Toney is the officer in charge of the case.


Michel Scott Kane

Michael Scott Kane, 46, waived his preliminary exam on charges of unarmed robbery, unauthorized driving away of a motor vehicle, receiving and concealing stolen property and receiving and concealing a stolen motor vehicle on May 9 in VBT. He is scheduled for an arraignment on the information at circuit court on Nov. 2.

Kane is free after posting \$25,000/10% bond. David Rudoi is his retained attorney and Det. Buxton is the officer in charge.

In a Sept. 14 court hearing, Rudoi said a competency hearing had been held on his client.

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Black Lives Matter

(continued from page 1)

With the cooperation of the Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren police leaders, school officials, and this young man it went smoothly, Chief Berriman said.

He said there was some concern that those opposing the protest might cause an incident, but that didn't happen.

"It was really nice to see," said Chief Berriman. "The entire crowd at that school was well-behaved."

He said they shut down West Columbia Avenue to empty the parking lot in a hurry and vehicles also were let out the Davis Street exit.

The original plan DaQuann presented was for protesters to sit on the visitors (Lincoln) side of the field and chant during the game and then take to the field when the game was over to chant some more.

The directions are to stay seated when the National Anthem is played. The protest was called a "Power in Unity Rally" and participants were told there is to be no violence, disrespect, harassing, or profanity.

Some of the chants planned were, "No Justice No Peace" and "When Black Lives are under attack, we stand up; we fight back."

Participants told the *Independent* their protest has nothing to do with what's going on in the Belleville schools. It all started when some students at Lincoln Consolidated Schools wanted to join the Black Lives Matter protests against "inequality demonstrated by the multiple deaths due to police brutality," said Taylor Killich, a Lincoln High School student.

She said the volleyball team, of which she is a part, has been kneeling for weeks when the National Anthem is played. Taylor said the Lincoln Athletic Department had added a "freedom of speech, freedom of expression" line to its rules and so there was no problem.

At the football game against Pioneer on Oct. 14, half of the Lincoln football team knelt for the National Anthem and a woman wrote about it on Facebook, showed pictures and said nasty things, Taylor said.

Other parents started harassing the team over the kneeling, Taylor said. Taylor said the cheerleading coach reportedly told cheerleaders that if they

participated in any way in the Black Lives Matter protests, they would be off the team.

Lincoln Cheer Coach Christina Spurley, who has been coaching for ten years, said she has 21 girls on her team and some were being pressured to participate in the protest. She said some wanted to put Black Lives Matter on their bandanas and others were uncomfortable with that.

She said the girls are on one team and should wear one uniform and look alike and cheer as one team. She said if a person feels so strongly about being part of the protest, she can participate in that.

While Lincoln football players have knelt for the National Anthem they are not allowed to wear anything else on their uniforms.

Spurley said, "I understand a big cause and wanting to be a part of it. But I think the students should go to a high school football game and have fun at a football game." She pointed out for some of the seniors it will be their last football game experience.

Spurley said she has been getting threatening phone calls about what will happen at the game.

At the game some cheerleaders planned to wear Black Lives Matter headbands in protest, no matter the punishment, Taylor said.

Taylor said on Oct. 19 multiple choir members held up their fists in protest against the National Anthem. She said nationwide, athletes are kneeling and raising fists to protest inequality and the high schoolers wanted to protest peacefully, too.

Harrison, a Lincoln student, said they were protesting at BHS because it was the last football game of the year and they wanted to participate in the national movement.

DaQuann said they got 100 extra Black Lives Matter shirts ordered, but didn't know if they'd get them in time for the protest. Everyone who didn't have a Black Lives Matter shirt was told to wear all black that night.

He said organizers expected 200 protesters, with 70 of them Belleville students. Parents at the game counted around 30 protesters.

"It feels good to be protesting injustices," DaQuann said. He said because Belleville and Lincoln are rival teams, they often play tricks on each other on game night.

"This year, instead, we'll be doing something positive," he said.

On Thursday, when details of the protest came to light, Van Buren Public Schools Supt. Pete Kudlak told DaQuann the district had no problem with the peaceful protest planned.

Nakia Hawkins-Hudson, a BHS senior, was also a member of the organizing committee. She said she used to attend Lincoln schools and she is representing Belleville on the Black Lives Matter Committee.

Although there were some rumors that the protesters planned to disrupt the BHS Marching Band that was to perform on the field, DaQuann said there is no plan to interrupt the band and they didn't.

On Thursday night, Supt. Kudlak sent out emails to BHS parents explaining what the students had planned for their protest and, "If you are planning to attend the game, we would appreciate you helping us to keep the environment safe by not engaging the protesters in any way."

The *Independent* posted a story Thursday about the upcoming protest on its www.bellevilleareaindependent.com website and more than 30 readers posted their comments.

DaQuann was interviewed by Detroit television reporters.

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That's Amore event to raise funds for leukemia research for children

From 5:30-11 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, a dinner and live auction -- called That's Amore XII -- will raise funds for C.S. Mott's Children's Hospital Pediatric Leukemia Research at the Charles Woodson Center.

The event is held annually at the Eagles, 9961 Beck Road, Van Buren Township, and is open to the public.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door, which includes an Italian dinner prepared by Nico & Vali Italian Eatery in Plymouth. There will be complimentary beer, wine, and soft drinks, with a cash bar for other cocktails.

Whitey will provide DJ entertainment, dancing, and silent and live auctions.

Get the tickets by dropping by the Van Buren Eagles or call (734) 657-0048 or (734) 699-8836. Buy eight, get two free.

Or email thatsamore777@yahoo.com or call Lin or Rex at (734) 657-0048 or Nancy Valinski (734) 718-6341.

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— Thomas Jefferson

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HALLOWEEN

MONDAY OCTOBER 31, 2016

The Belleville Central Business Community
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**Visit Downtown Belleville Businesses
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The hours of 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm**

**Costume Contest at 6:00 p.m.
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Superintendent's Corner

By Pete Kudlak
Superintendent,
Van Buren Public Schools



More than any other year, I can feel Election Day looming. Nov. 8 is just around the corner and many important decisions are in front of us as voters. No matter which way you lean, you are likely feeling the pressure.

In our community we have some local choices to make with the Van Buren Public Safety Millage, the Library Millages, the School Board Elections, township trustees, the Regional Transit Authority, and two school millages. All of these are important decisions.

Our two school millages are quite different and both need some explaining.

When Proposal A passed in 1994, the funding of schools was fundamentally changed. Districts used to be able to go to voters for millages that would assist in the general operations. After years of this practice, some districts were levying many more dollars per student than others. Proposal A was voted in to help reduce this funding gap by not allowing individual school districts to obtain millages for operations.

Our two millages are directly linked to this component of Proposal A.

18-Mill Non-Homestead Millage: Since 1994, local businesses throughout the state have had to pay 18 mills for local schools. While this is a renewal, it will not be listed as such. We are attaching a Headlee Override to this proposal. This will allow us to receive the full 18 mills for the schools. The ballot language will say 20-mills. However, by law, we can never collect more than 18 mills. This 20-mill language is strictly the Headlee Override component. If we are in a Headlee Rollback, we would still be able to collect the full 18 mills. This millage is just for businesses, second homes, and rental property -- not for regular households.

Wayne County Enhancement Millage: Since individual school districts can no longer levy taxes to support the operations, entire counties need to pass a millage. This

allows for all the districts in the county to benefit from the millage. This is a 2-mill, 6-year proposal that is designated as Enhancement. How should we "enhance" the education that we currently provide? What do we want to provide for our current kindergarteners as they graduate in 2029? School should look different, but how? We will have a series of focus group meetings to discuss this as a community.

I hope that this helps you have a better understanding of our two millage proposals. If you still have any questions, please call me at (734) 697-9123.

No matter where you land, I hope that you all exercise your right to vote. Being an active participant in our political process is a fundamental component of being American. Through the years, our country has fought (and many loved ones have died) to protect this right. We know that we can make a difference by exerting our voice in our democracy and by casting our one, unique, researched, inalienable, fundamental, and protected vote.

Jennifer Blackburn earns Bachelor of Social Work degree at EMU

Jennifer Diane Blackburn of Sumpter Township graduated from Eastern Michigan University on Aug. 16 with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. She graduated *summa cum laude* with a 4.0 Grade Point Average. She will take part in commencement ceremonies in December.

Her husband Brian Blackburn said he is very proud of Jennifer's accomplishment. It took her six years to get her degree, starting out at Washtenaw Community College and continuing all part time, plus working, being a mom, and serving as president of the Belleville Fire Department Auxiliary.

The Blackburns, who lived in Belleville for many years, recently moved to their new house in Sumpter.

"There are basically two types of people.

People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded."

— Mark Twain



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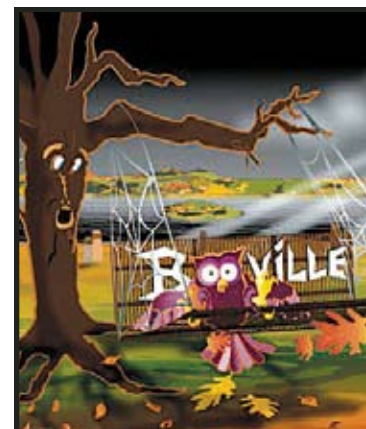
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SOUTHWESTERN WAYNE DEMOCRATIC CLUB ENDORSEMENTS 2016 GENERAL ELECTION

PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- Hillary Clinton, Democrat

CONGRESSIONAL

- Debbie Dingell, 12th Congressional District, Congresswoman; Incumbent

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

- Erika Geiss, State Representative 12th District; Incumbent
- Bill LaVoy, State Representative 17th District; Incumbent
- Kristy Pagan, State Representative 21st District; Incumbent
- Darrin Camilleri for State Representative in the 23rd District

WAYNE COUNTY

- Judge Mark Slavens, Wayne County 3rd Circuit Court; Incumbent
- Benny Napoleon, Wayne County Sheriff; Incumbent
- Cathy Garrett, Wayne County Clerk; Incumbent
- Bernard Youngblood, Wayne County Register of Deeds; Incumbent
- Eric Sabree, Wayne County Treasurer; Incumbent
- Al Haidous, Wayne County Commissioner, 11th District; Incumbent

JUDICIAL AND EDUCATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS (NON PARTISAN)

- MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT: Frank S. Szymanski, Deborah Thomas
- WAYNE COUNTY 3rd DISTRICT COURT: Matthew Evans - Wanda Evans - Robert Ficano - Brian Morrow
- FIRST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS: Cynthia Diane Stevens; Incumbent, Nicole James
- EDUCATIONAL: State Board of Education: Ismael Ahmed, John Austin - U of M Regents: Denise Ilitch, Laurence Deitch - Governor of Wayne State University: Mark Gaffney, Yvette Anderson - MSU Trustee: Dianne Byrum, Diann Woodard

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

- Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
- Leon Wright, Van Buren Township Clerk; Incumbent
- Sharry Budd, Van Buren Township Treasurer; Incumbent
- Reggie Miller, Van Buren Township Trustee; Incumbent
- Sherry Frazier, Van Buren Township Trustee
- Kevin Martin, Van Buren Township Trustee
- Paul White, Van Buren Township Trustee

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

- John Morgan, Sumpter Township Supervisor; Incumbent
- Clarence Hoffman Jr, Sumpter Township Clerk; Incumbent
- Alan Bates, Sumpter Township Treasurer; Incumbent
- Don LaPorte, Sumpter Township Trustee; Incumbent
- Peggy Morgan, Sumpter Township Trustee; Incumbent
- Don Swinson, Sumpter Township Trustee; Incumbent
- Matt Oddy, Sumpter Township Trustee

HURON TOWNSHIP

- Dave Haener, Huron Township Supervisor
- Linda Spangler, Huron Township Treasurer
- Antionette Garcia, Huron Township Clerk
- Jeremy Cady, Huron Township Trustee
- Candace Myshock, Huron Township Trustee
- Donna Mendrysa, Huron Township Trustee; Incumbent
- Kristy Novicki, Huron Township Trustee

CANTON TOWNSHIP

- Dian Slavens, Canton Township Treasurer

Visit us on Facebook at **Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club**.

For additional information, please visit www.swdc.ruck.us

Paid for by Southwestern Wayne [County] Democratic Club, P. O. Box 1182, Belleville, MI 48112

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Oct. 27** – Ten-year celebration of the African American Literature Book Group at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth Street, Belleville. Everyone welcome. Food. Fun. Laughter. And, poetry read by member Melvin T. Peters, PhD, acclaimed professor and speaker.

• **Friday, Oct. 28** – Trunk or Treat party from 7-9 p.m. at the Moose, corner of Sumpter and Harris roads. Put on by Women of the Moose #1135. Sign up at Sumpter Township Hall.

• **Friday, Oct. 28** – Friends Family Theater Movie Night, & Family Fun Night starts at 7 p.m. Fine family films, fun, food, all for FREE! Movies shown in the Youth House, 7890 Tuttle Hill Rd. (at Bemis Rd.), Ypsilanti. Featuring: "Noah's Ark" from Fantasia 2000 (2012-12 minutes). "The Hope," The story of God's promise for all people (80 minutes). Questions: (734) 482-5074 or previews at www.friendsfamilytheater.com

• **Saturday, Oct. 29** – Volunteers needed to place American flags on the graves of veterans in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville. Project begins at 8:30 a.m. Get the graves ready for Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Each section of the cemetery takes about an hour of work.

• **Saturday, Oct. 29** – Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department presents its FREE Candy Loop, inviting children to Quirk Park, behind township hall, from 5 to 7 p.m., where children can walk the path to various candy stops to receive tricks or

treats from various local businesses. If it rains, event will be moved inside township hall. Information at: 699-8921.

• **Sunday, Oct. 30** – Belleville Area Museum's Children's Halloween Party, noon-2 p.m. at the museum.

• **Sunday, Oct. 30** – Belleville Free Will Baptist Church, 750 E. Huron River Drive, is holding its Fall Festival at 4 p.m. Games, food, trunk or treat, lots of candy and more. All Free.

• **Sunday, Oct. 30** – 3 J's perform from 2 to 5 p.m. at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township. Free. Information: Mike Hoben (734) 260-1170 or Lynette Jordan (734) 699-8918.

• **Sunday, Oct. 30** – Belleville Area Museum's Bonfire Ghost Stories and museum ghost tour 7-9 p.m. at the museum.

• **Monday, Oct. 31** – Trick or Treat in downtown Belleville, 5-7 p.m. Costume contest at Fourth Street Square with prizes.

• **Thursday, Nov. 3** – Annual Sauerkraut Dinner from 5 p.m. until sold out at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig, New Boston 48164. Full pork and kraut dinner, plus accompaniments and apple or pumpkin pie. For information, call (734) 753-9048.

• **Thursday, Nov. 3** – Free class on Family History Research from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on six Thursdays, Nov. 3, 10, 17 and Dec. 1, 8, and 15 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 941 South Grove, Ypsilanti 48197. Learn basic genealogical research and research tools. Contact Kathy Bailey to reserve a place in the class: (734) 461-6133 or (734) 660-1971, kbailey@gmail.com.

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Independent photo by Bob Mytych

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Belles Resale Creatively Unexpected Treasures on Main Street last Friday with the help of the public, chamber members, city and township officials. Owner Martha Milholin was joined by artists Vicky Winecroft, Ron Warenger, Sharon Graff-Horning, and Sharie Cannon. Local artisans can call to learn more about consigning at (734) 325-2372. Visit www.bellesresale.com.

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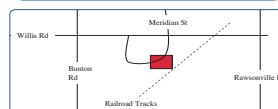
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VBT Treasurer Budd issues statement on auditor's jab at VBT

At the Oct. 18 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, VBT Treasurer Sharry Budd read the following statement:

"In response to the Belleville-Area Independent in the Oct. 13 paper 'School Board audit turns up problem with VBT paperwork,' I would like to state the history of the issue.

"The Township's DDA issued a bond issue back in 1995, for the construction of the Township Hall. Based on the timing of this issue, the DDA was eligible to capture a proportionate share of the school operating taxes, along with the State Education Tax (SET) and RESA taxes, up to an amount equal to the annual bond debt payment. Annually, we report this to the State of MI via Michigan Department of Treasury form 2604 titled "Tax Increment Financing Plan report for Capture of Property Taxes." The final payment of this bond issue was 10/1/14. So, tax year 2014 concluded the township's ability to capture school operating, SET or RESA taxes. The State of MI was well aware of the conclusion of the bond. Our final 2604 report was sent to the State of MI on 3/3/15.

"The 2015 tax year marked the first year the Township no longer captured school taxes for the payment of the 1995 bond issue. So instead of withholding the school operating portion of the bond payment as we had for the last 20 years (roughly \$352,000)

we distributed the taxes collected to the school district without any withholdings as required.

"Mr. Thomas Taylor of Taylor and Morgan was quoted in the paper as saying, 'some captured taxes were not reported properly to the State by Van Buren Township. The Township has to correct that and report it to the State. I talked to the gentleman at the township and he knows he has to report it.'

"His comments were totally off base, not accurate and offending. We reported all captures to the State of MI on an annual basis, as we were required to do. Upon conclusion of the bond issue, we are no longer required to file form 2604, which details the capture of school taxes, due to the fact that we are no longer capturing any school taxes.

"My deputy spoke with Mr. David Finks, from the State of Michigan, Department of Treasury (517-373-3227) on October 13. He confirmed the township is in compliance with all reporting requirements and future filings are not necessary as we are not capturing school taxes any longer.

"I would ask the school's auditors to be sure of their facts before they make false accusations about my staff.

"I would hope this clears up the matter and if there are any further questions, you can call me at (734) 699-8902."

VOTE ☒ YES NOVEMBER 8TH!

**RIGHT SIZE
RIGHT PLACE**
Downtown Belleville
LIBRARY-YES!



Residents of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren Townships supporting the library bond and operating millage proposals on the November 8, 2016 election:

KEN ASKEW
SANDY ASKEW
ALAN BATES
VIRGINIA BELINSKI
CAROL BIRD
MIKE BOELTER
YVONNE BOWLING
SHARRY BUDD
JEWELL BUTLER
JOY CICHEWICZ
LINDA COMBS
ANGELA CORY
GEORGE CRAVEN

DAVID CURSON
SHARON CURSON
KATIE DALLOS
RICK DAWSON
MARY JANE DAWSON
SUSAN FEATHERINGILL
TOM FIELDER
SHERRY FRAZIER
DEBRA GREEN
ELAINE GUTIERREZ
AL HAIDOUS
JULIE HARDY
REBECCA HASEN

LILLIAN HENDERSON
PAUL HENNING
CLARENCE HOFFMAN
JEFFREY JAHR
BEVERLY JENKINS
STEVE JONES
JOHN JURIGA
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SANDRA LAUTH
DONNA LAVIN
JAMES LENZE
JACK LORIA
ROSEMARY LORIA

ROBYN MCCOY
KEVIN MCNAMARA
BARBARA MILLER
REGGIE MILLER
JOSEPH MONTE
JOHN MORGAN
PEGGY MORGAN
MATTHEW ODDY
DENISE PARTRIDGE
JIM PEDERSEN
SHEILA PEDERSEN
SHARON PETERS
JENNIFER PRICE

LINDA PRIEST
RANDY PRIEST
LACHELLE REED CAVER
JOYCE ROCHOWIAK
TIM RUSH
SCOTT RUSSELL
CLAUDETTE SERPETTI
CYNTHIA SMITH
THOMAS SMITH
MARY JO SUCHY
TANYA STOUDEMIRE
DONALD SWINSON
BOB THORNE

KIM TINDALL
SHERRY TONTALO
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Belleville DDA

(continued from page 3)

run down by a car and police know who did it and the trees will be replaced. Williams noted that a prominent path off Aberdeen at Victoria Commons is overgrow with vegetation and needs to be cleared and more gravel put down;

- Discussed the follow-up list, with Thompson noting the check cleared for the Community Development Block Grant funds for the launch and now the launch will just be a maintenance item. DDA member Alicia McGovern ask if Pioneer Landscaping did OK for grass mowing to replace DPW workers. Victoria Commons president Kelly Bates said it was good except grass was left on the sidewalks and they didn't edge or trim along the fence;

- Approved paying expenditures for September and October of \$18,703.26. There was no meeting held in September;

- Heard Jeff Vernon ask how success is measured referring to comments that the outdoor sculptures were a successful project. "It does bring people to town," said DDA chairman Rosemary Loria. Vernon said people tell him they don't like the sculptures and Loria replied, "We haven't heard the negatives. How can you measure art?" Jennifer Winters said from the audience that there were thousands of pictures taken of the skeleton sculpture that was on the Fourth Street Square next to Egan's Pub last year. Vernon also asked if the holiday promotion would be in the Belleville area and Thompson said it would be just in the DDA district;

- Briefly discussed the successful pop-up shop last holiday season, but Winters said the Moving the Mitten woman won't be doing it this year. Mayor Kerreen Conley said the coordination of a girls' night out last year was fun and, "We had a really great time." Winters said the lady from The Buckle told her she would come back to sell jeans again; and

- Heard Councilman Tom Fielder say a great example of an incubator is the Zombie Run, where the kids did what Thompson said to do the first year and now they are in charge and they aren't even the same kids that started it.

There are two vacancies on the DDA that need to be filled. The positions both are for members with property interest in the district, Thompson said. See city hall for applications.

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State Rep. Bill LaVoy supports Second Amendment

On Friday, State Representative Bill LaVoy, D-Monroe, issued this statement on protecting Second Amendment rights:

"I am disappointed in my Democratic colleagues, namely Rep. Wittenberg, for introducing misguided legislation that would place restrictions on the ability to own and responsibly use guns for sport and to carry.

"I am proud to have the endorsement of the NRA and am not shy about my support for the Second Amendment and our right to bear arms. My colleagues' bills work to diminish the Second Amendment and I do not support any measure that interjects

the government into gun owners' lives. Michiganders who enjoy hunting for sport or who carry responsibly should not be targeted by the government for dutifully following current laws.

"Suggesting that we place unnecessary restrictions on gun owners is irresponsible as legislators. We are elected to defend and protect our constituents, not to limit their rights. Thus, I am not only disappointed, but I am in severe opposition to these bills," Rep. LaVoy said.

LaVoy is running for reelection in the 17th District, which includes Sumpter Township.

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Vote November 8th!

I have been honored to serve as your Township Supervisor for the past four years, but there is still much work to be done! I intended to run in the August Primary but family matters prevented me from doing so.



Linda Combs



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November 8th
General Election

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman
 Keith and Ginger Bruder present the life of Jasper Burt of 24th Michigan Infantry, Company F, in the Civil War, who lived on 200 acres in the Van Buren Township/Sumpter Township area. They were taking part in Oct. 15 Otisville Cemetery Walk put on by the Belleville Area Museum.



Marie Krouse gives a talk on the young lady ghost who visits the house next to Otisville Cemetery. Krouse is Van Buren Township's "Flag Lady" who makes sure all the veterans' graves in the township have American flags on them.



SHERRY FRAZIER
VAN BUREN TWP TRUSTEE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STRONG INDEPENDANT LEADER

VOTE NOV 8

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- ... keep community values going up
- ... keep public safety as a priority

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- Committed to the Van Buren Community
- 4-time Van Buren School Board Member

SUPPORT OUR POLICE & FIRE AND OUR SCHOOLS!
VOTE YES  **NOV. 8TH**
PROTECT OUR PROPERTY VALUES AND KEEP OUR COMMUNITY STRONG!



Shelby Davis gave a talk on what the coins on a Civil War tombstone meant. She said if someone left a penny on the gravestone, it meant they visited the grave. If they left a nickel, it meant they were in boot camp together. If it was a dime, they served with the decedent. If it was a quarter, they were there when he or she died.

Sandhill Crane Wine Fundraiser to earn money for FMAR

An event at Sandhill Crane Vineyard in Jackson from 11:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 12 will raise funds for Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, based in Sumpter Township.

Cost is \$50 per person (must be 21 or older) and tickets must be purchased by Nov. 5.

The event includes:

- A bus ride from two pick-up locations.

On the bus, you can purchase a cup for \$5 and have it filled with wine for the ride. The bus will arrive at the vineyard at 1 p.m. and depart at 3 p.m. The ticket price remains the same if you choose to drive yourself to the event.

- Buffet lunch: sandwiches (build your own), Michigan salad, Thai pasta salad, and warm fruit crisp.

• Wine Tasting: There will be a guided tasting of eight wines, then the bar will be open for all other wines to be tasted. See the complete list of wines at www.sandhillcranevineyards.com/our-wines/wine-list/

- Tour of the winemaking process.

Tickets are to be purchased on-line (use ticket link provided). When purchasing

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More Letters

People take good care of their properties

To the Editor,

The landscaping that people do in the city and Victoria Commons, to name a few places, should be commended. We would show pictures, however, we are not sure what pictures they would like to present! We should thank all the residents that are so proud of their properties. Then, the city would know what the community's needs are and govern accordingly. After all, the residents pay for city salaries every two weeks, along with parks and rubbish and water taxes. We guess you send something into the county also in the form of taxes. A note about Victoria Commons: There is a city park inside the subdivision, with fountains. You can sit along the shore. No three-way stop signs, not plentiful street signs for children, adults, and seniors to read. I wonder how it passed inspections.

Penny Mills, Belleville



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Court Watching:**Judge Oakley binds Nelson Po over to circuit court on mj charge**

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After a preliminary exam on Oct. 12, 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley bound Nelson S Po over to circuit court to face a charge of delivering/manufacturing 5-45 kilograms of marijuana on Aug. 16 in Sumpter Township.

Po's arraignment on the information is set for 9 a.m. Oct. 26 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit. The charge is a felony and if found guilty Po would be subject to 7 years in prison or a \$500,000 fine.

The preliminary exam started with Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Doug Dwyer saying that Po's attorney Ronald Ruark was at the scene when the search warrant was executed and so he's a witness.

A lawyer is not supposed to be a witness and also represent the client, Prosecutor Dwyer said.

"I don't plan to be called as a witness," Ruark replied. "I was on the scene when the search warrant was executed."

"What do you want me to do?" Judge Oakley asked Dwyer, noting he has not cited any case law to support his claim.

"I just found out about it," Dwyer said and then decided to just get on with the preliminary exam.

His first witness was Sumpter Detective

John Toth who said he was on duty on Aug. 16 when there was a complaint about an odor of marijuana in the area of 45025 Harris Road. He testified that Sumpter has a local ordinance that covers odors and this "skunky, marijuana" smell could be smelled two doors down.

He said he assumed it was coming from the Po residence. He said he had been in several marijuana grows and knows the smell. With the medical marijuana licensing at the township, he had been at many grows and many times over the years before that What he smelled was fresh marijuana, he testified.

"You were familiar with Mr. Po's operation in the past?" Dwyer asked and Det. Toth said he was.

Toth said he went to Po's house and Officer Beth Egerer was there with him and she rang the doorbell or knocked. He said Po was on the telephone and he came out and said they could not search the property.

At that point, Po's attorney Ruark pointed out Sumpter Police Chief Eric Luke was in the back of the courtroom and Chief Luke had been a witness and should be sequestered.

Dwyer said there was a chance Chief Luke could testify down the road, but he wouldn't be testifying that day. Ruark said then he had no problem.

Det. Toth continued his testimony saying that after Po greeted them with the statement that they couldn't search his property, "I thought it was interesting that was the first thing out of his mouth, but this is America... Ruark had advised him what to say ... I was waiting for Ruark. Po said he was on his way."

Toth said after Ruark arrived he told him that he was going to have to see the grow operation because the ordinance allows for inspection.

Toth testified they did not search without a search warrant. After he got the warrant he went back to the grow and Po told him he would be 100 plants over the 72 plants allowed.

Toth described the layout of the six grow rooms, which included a former kennel, a large pole barn and an additional pole barn.

Toth said there were 254 total plants and the Michigan State Police located 20 pounds

of marijuana in the freezer that was infused with butane, which increases the THC. Plus there were 70 quarts of Tupperware containers with edibles. There also was a notebook with details on the grow, \$60,000 cash and guns, Toth testified.

Dwyer asked how much Po was allowed to have under the law for medical marijuana and Toth said it was 60 because he was short one medical marijuana card.

Dwyer pointed out marijuana with butane is not allowed at all.

Toth said they submitted one fresh leaf to the Michigan State Police lab and it came back positive for marijuana.

Then Po's attorney Ruark began his cross-examination of Toth and asked what time he arrived at Po's house and Toth said it was about 11 a.m.

Ruark pointed out that in the deferred agreement signed with Po on Sept. 11, 2015, police were only allowed to search between 9 and 10 a.m. and Toth was an hour later than he's allowed. He said it goes to the search issue and the alleged confession.

Toth said he didn't sign the agreement and hadn't read it until just two weeks before this hearing.

Dwyer said he would disagree that this agreement was part of this charge. He said in a preliminary exam the judge is just supposed to decide if a crime has been committed and if there is reason to believe that the suspect may have committed the crime.

"I don't think this is correct for a probable cause hearing," Judge Oakley concurred.


Toth said in the agreement, Po was to cease growing last April and he was still growing. He said he hadn't read the agreement when he went to Po's house on Aug. 16.

Ruark asked who else was at the scene that day and he said Officer Egerer was there and she was in uniform with a marked car. Ruark asked if she was wearing a weapon and Toth said she was.

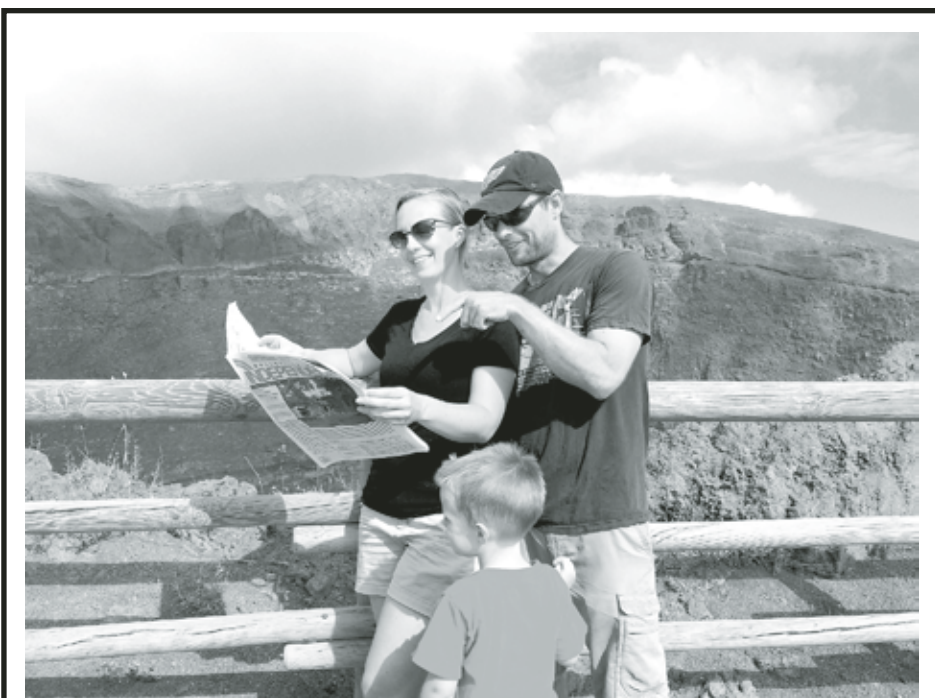
Ruark asked if Toth identified himself and Toth said he had talked with Po many times in the past.

"He tried to hire me for \$200,000 to come to work for him," Toth said. "He offered \$150,000 to Egerer and she thought it was

(continued on page 24)



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They're reading the Independent everywhere

Jessica Jones-Liberati, her husband Jeremie Johnson, and their youngest son, Dylan Johnson, read the *Independent* overlooking the crater of Mt. Vesuvius in Naples, Italy, in September. Their other sons Luke Johnson and Dominic Liberati were with them, as were Jeremie's parents, aunt and uncle. They stayed in a beautiful seaside villa in Sorrento on the Amalfi Coast and took day trips to Rome, Naples, Pompeii and Positano.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

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VBT Environmental Commission to rewrite ordinance on coal tar

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Environmental Commission at its regular meeting Oct. 19 directed Matthew Best to rewrite the coal tar ordinance, adding registration of contractors, prohibitions, costs, and civil infractions for violations.

Also, while the current VBT ordinance bans applications containing 1% coal tar or more, the commission wants that reduced to .1%.

The commission discussed at length what other communities are putting on for fines and decided to get local asphalt appliers to comply the ordinance needed some teeth.

Last December, the VBT Board of Trustees passed the ordinance recommended by the Environmental Commission and became the first community in the state to ban coal tar.

Since then, other communities have banned the substance, including Scio Township, Ann Arbor, Hamburg Township, Dexter, and Spring Lake Township.

Best, the VBT deputy director of planning and economic development, said when he worked on last year's ordinance he was told not to put any fines in the ordinance and

that it would be an educational tool to teach residents about the hazards of coal tar.

Best said VBT's software is able to do registrations of contractors and keep documents on file. He said Police Lt. Charles Bazzy is working on changing punishments for ordinance violations from misdemeanors, handled by the court, to civil infractions, that are handled by the municipalities.

Township Trustee Jeff Jahr, who was at his last meeting after serving on the commission for 16 years, noted the commission is running out of season for asphalt paving so it would be good to get the ordinance on the books by next spring.

Trustee Jahr did not run for reelection to the township board, so he will no longer be the board's liaison to the commission. The commission has two vacancies besides the liaison and so commission members have been urging Jahr to come back to the commission as a citizen appointee.

Jahr said the township needs to put on an educational campaign to explain the new ordinance.

Commission chairman David Brownlee said the brochures on coal tar need to be put into mailings for residents. Best said the township never got the brochures from the Huron River Watershed Council, but he will get them.

In other business at the one hour and 45-minute meeting, the commission:

- Held its annual election, reelecting by acclamation chairman Brownlee and vice chairman Norm DeBuck;

- Heard Best report on the Lakeshore Management Workgroup that has been working for the last two months and at its last meeting moved to take the document to the township attorney. The attorney gave it the green light to present to the planning commission, which will be done Nov. 9 or in December. Best said changes to the proposed ordinance came from the lakeside residents who tirelessly worked to get a document they could agree on. "That's democracy working the way it should," DeBuck said;

- Discussed pollinators and habitat for pollinators. It's "putting green back into the gray" for pollinators, Best said. "We're always looking to add green and the VBT downtown has greened, thanks to the efforts of the DDA and township board," he said. He said if you drive through other non-traditional downtowns, you don't see the green that is in VBT. He said Mayser Polymer has put green around its new pond in the industrial area, which will take care of a square mile of pollinators. "When the next development comes along, we'll put in more green." More information on pollinators can be found at www.pollinator.org;

- Listened to Best's presentation on Eurasian Milfoil in Belleville Lake, the same talk he recently gave to the planning commission.

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**Minding
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The deadline has been extended through tomorrow, Oct. 28, for art show applicants for next month's Belleville Area Council for the Art's Community Art Show, Nov. 4-6 at the BYC on East Huron River Drive. On Friday, the art show reception will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Refreshments and a cash bar will be offered. Art Show awards will be handed out at 7:30 p.m. It's open to the public. Regular art show hours are Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dave's Treasure Trove is now open and has been for a few months in the former location of Marti's Gift Gallery on East Huron River Drive featuring all kinds of cool stuff for the sportsman, hunter, fisherman, sports collector, and more. From a vast gun collection to boating accessories and nautical gifts, Dave's Treasure Trove is the perfect place to shop for any man cave. They're open Monday through Saturday, from noon until 6 p.m. Call (734) 699-4438. Cash or local checks only.

WWII Battle Operation Tidal Wave is the featured program at the Yankee Air Museum's Historic Preservation Night Nov. 2, beginning at 7:30 p.m. held in the General-Purpose Room at the museum. The YAM's very own Barry Levine will discuss the objectives, mistakes, and compelling stories of Operation Title Wave, the B-24 air raid on the Ploesti Oil Refineries back in 1943. The program is free and open to the public. Call (734) 483-4030.

Belleville Freewill Baptist Church will be holding its Fall Festival this Sunday, Oct. 30, at 4 p.m. at the church at 750 East Huron River Drive. Activities include games, food, trunk or treat, candy and more. The event is free. For info call Jodi Meade at (734) 654-3967.

The month of October ends Monday with Trick or Treat Halloween in Downtown Belleville, from 5 to 7 p.m. The Belleville Central Business Community's annual costume contest will get under way at 6 p.m. at Fourth Street Square. Contest categories include age groups infant to 3 years, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, 13 and up, and family. Prizes will be given to the winners and runner-ups. I am honored to be one of the contest judges once again. Thanks, CBC, for asking me. Oh, and don't forget to visit downtown businesses for treats. Happy Halloween, Booville.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no cost to be in this column.



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE NOTICE OF ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2016

In accordance with Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of 1954 Section 168.653(a); notice is hereby given to the registered voters of the City of Belleville that the GENERAL ELECTION will be held TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016.

Polls are open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. EST.

Polling place locations for the City of Belleville:

Precinct #1 and Precinct #2 are located at St. Anthony's Church (Father Folta Building), 409 W. Columbia

Each person voting in the election must be:

- (a) A citizen of the United States of America over eighteen (18) years of age.
- (b) A registered elector of the City of Belleville.

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Judge of Circuit Court 3rd Circuit Non-Incumbent Position
Judge of Probate Court Incumbent Position
Judge of District Court 34th District Incumbent Position
Local School District Board Member Van Buren Public Schools
District Library Board Member Belleville Area District

Proposals

AUTHORITY – A proposal authorizing the Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA) to levy an assessment.

The proposal would authorize the RTA to levy within Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties a property tax assessment at a rate of 1.2 mills (\$1.20 per \$1,000 of taxable value); for 20 years beginning in 2016 and ending in 2035; that may not be increased, renewed, or used for other purposes without direct voter approval; and to be used upon the affirmative vote of an RTA board member from each RTA member jurisdiction for the purpose of construction and operation of a public transportation system connecting Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties, including rapid transit bus routes across county lines, specialized service for senior citizens and people with disabilities, commuter rail, airport express service, and other public transportation purposes permitted by law, consistent with RTA bylaws and subject to the limitations of the Regional Transit Authority Act.

If this new additional assessment is approved and levied, revenue will be disbursed to the RTA. It is estimated that \$160,907,285 will be collected in the first year.

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – Van Buren Public Schools operating millage proposition exempting principal residence and other homestead property.

This millage will: (1) allow the school district to levy not more than the statutory rate of 18 mills on all property except homestead property as required for the school district to continue to receive its full per pupil foundation allowance and (2) provide an additional 2 mills in the event of future Headlee rollbacks to continue to allow the school district to receive the full foundation allowance permitted by the state.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all taxable property, except principal residence and other homestead property as defined by law, in Van Buren Public Schools, Counties of Wayne and Washtenaw, State of Michigan, be increased to 20 mills (\$20.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable value) for 8 years, calendar years 2017 to 2024, inclusive? It is estimated that the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in the 2017 calendar year will be approximately \$9,091,374 from the local taxes authorized in this proposal. Revenues will be disbursed to Van Buren Public Schools for the purpose of providing funds for the operating expenses of the District.

DISTRICT LIBRARY – 1. Bonding Proposition for the Belleville Area District Library

Shall the Belleville Area District Library, formed by City of Belleville, Charter Township of Van Buren, and Township of Sumpter, each in the County of Wayne, State of Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed \$14,000,000 and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds for all or a portion of that amount for the purpose of constructing, furnishing and equipping a new building for library purposes; constructing renovations to, furnishing and refurbishing and equipping and re-equipping an existing building for library purposes; and acquiring, developing and improving sites for library

(Continued on page 23)



(Continued from page 22)

buildings?

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2017 is 0.75 mill (\$0.75 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is 21 years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 0.68 mill (\$0.68 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses).

2. Millage Proposal for the Belleville Area District Library

This proposal will allow the District Library to levy additional millage in the City of Belleville, Charter Township of Van Buren, and Township of Sumpter for library operating purposes. Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all taxable property within the geographic boundaries of the Belleville Area District Library, Wayne County, Michigan, be increased by 0.75 mill (\$0.75 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 20 years, 2017 to 2036, inclusive, to provide funds for library operating purposes?

The estimated revenue the District Library will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2017 is approximately \$1,051,307, of which the District Library will receive \$947,859 and the following entities will capture a portion of the revenues: Belleville Downtown Development Authority (\$18,398), Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority (\$56,350), and Van Buren Township Local Development Financing Authority (\$28,701)?

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT – Regional Enhancement Millage Proposal

Pursuant to State law, the revenue raised by the proposed enhancement millage will be collected by the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency and distributed to local public school districts within the boundaries of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency based on pupil membership count.

Shall the limitation on the amount of ad valorem taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, be increased by 2 mills \$2.00 per \$1,000 dollars of taxable value) for a period of 6 years, 2016 to 2021, inclusive, as new additional millage to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes? It is estimated that 2 mills would raise approximately \$80,000,000 when first levied in 2016.

The revenue from this millage will be disbursed to the following school districts:

Allen Park Public Schools, Crestwood School District, Dearborn City School District, Dearborn Heights School District #7, Detroit Public Schools Community District, Ecorse Public School District, Flat Rock Community Schools, School District of the City of Garden City, Gibraltar School District, Grosse Ile Township Schools, The Grosse Pointe Public School System, Hamtramck Public Schools, City of Harper Woods Schools, School District of the City of Highland Park, Huron School District, School District of the City of Lincoln Park, Livonia Public Schools, Melvindale-Northern Allen Park Schools, Northville Public Schools, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Redford Union School District, River Rouge School District, Riverview Community School District, Romulus Community Schools, Southgate Community School District, South Redford School District, Taylor School District, Trenton Public Schools, Van Buren Public Schools, Wayne-Westland Community School District, Westwood Community Schools, Woodhaven-Brownstown School District, and Wyandotte City School District.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the following statement has been received from the Wayne County Treasurer, to wit:

"I, Eric R. Sabree, Treasurer of Wayne County Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of September 20, 2016 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

Local Unit	Election	Voted Increase	Expires
Wayne County	11-3-09	1 mil	2015
Wayne County Jail	8-7-12	1 mil	2021
Wayne County Parks	8-2-16	0.25 mil	2020
Wayne County Community College	11-6-08	1.25 mils	2020
	11-6-12	1 mill	2022
Van Buren Township School District	8-11	18 mils	2016 (non homestead only)

Each person voting in the election must be:

- (a) A citizen of the United States of America over 18 years of age.
- (b) A registered elector of the City of Belleville.

NOTICE FURTHER GIVEN, that the polling place located in the City of Belleville to be used for the November 8, 2016 General Election is accessible to voters who are elderly or handicapped.

NOTICE FURTHER GIVEN, that any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice other than the voter's employer or agent of that employee or officer or agent of the voter's union.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, by the City Clerk in accordance with Section 168.653 of the Michigan Election Law, as amended, and Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. Deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the November 8, 2016 General Election is Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Sherri Scharf,
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: October 27, 2016

Jacob King awarded \$1,000 scholarship to study law enforcement

Bethany Christian School graduate Jacob King of Sterling Heights has been awarded a \$1,000 Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP) Dream Scholarship.



Jacob King

He is among 22 top students who will receive the award to encourage their pursuit of law enforcement/public safety careers by the professional public safety officers of LEEP.

"I am a very motivated individual with a strong work ethic. I desire to become a third-generation police officer and this scholarship would help me accomplish that goal," King wrote in his scholarship application.

Jacob's father Mark King was a Fraser police sergeant, serving the department 27 years before being hired as a Van Buren Township police officer. Jacob's grandfather E.J. King was also a Fraser police officer.

Officer Mark King said he and his family live in Sterling Heights.

Jacob plans to use his \$1,000 LEEP Dream Scholarship at Spring Arbor University, where he plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. King also received \$14,000 in scholarships for his baseball skills and excellent grades.

Jacob's neighbors, Paul and Susan Gonzales, have known him since he was little and have employed him for the past three years for snow removal and lawn maintenance.

"We were not surprised when we discussed Jacob's career ambitions that he expressed his desire to enter law enforcement. He comes from a family that instills service to others and they are dedicated to public service," the Gonzaleses wrote in a letter of recommendation. "On several occasions the entire family has come out to shovel snow for many of our older neighbors without expecting or accepting payment for their kindness.

"Jacob's dependability, courtesy, reliability and efficiency are well beyond what would be expected from someone his age just entering the workforce," the Gonzaleses wrote.

Jacob, who graduated high school with a 3.53 GPA, participated in band, Brass Ensemble, choir, Vocal Ensemble, Men's Quartet Vocal, orchestra, baseball, basketball in high school. He was Class Vice President, Pep Club Chairman, and Captain of the baseball team.

In the community, he was a member of First Baptist Church of Troy Choir and Orchestra and went on a mission trip to Colchester, Conn. where he taught Vacation Bible School to encourage area parents to bring their children to church.

Nelson Po

(continued from page 19)

sexist because he offered me \$200,000.”

Ruark asked if Toth engaged Po in conversation and he said he did. Ruark asked if they still talked after Po said his attorney was on his way and Toth testified yes, they talked.

Ruark asked if Po was arrested and Toth said no, he was detained because the police department had taken 200 pounds from this location in a previous incident. He said they did not want to lose evidence they were in the process of investigating.

“He was not free to leave the property?” Ruark asked and Toth repeated that he was not under arrest but he was not allowed to leave the property.

Ruark asked who all was at the scene and Toth said Po’s wife, attorney Ruark, and a couple of gentlemen back in the grow.

Toth testified he left Officer Egerer at the scene and went to get the search warrant at about 11:45 a.m. He said everyone was detained except Ruark.

Toth said in the agreement Po was to shut down growing. He said he called township attorney Rob Young and the search warrant went to Young.

“Why not just ticket him?” Ruark said of the odor investigation.

Toth said you have to investigate to make sure of the source of the odor. He said in 2015, Sumpter Township was involved briefly in at situation at this site.

Ruark asked who made the odor complaint and Toth said, “I received an order from my chief of police to investigate.” He pointed out the chief was his superior officer.

Ruark gave a copy of the three-page search warrant to Toth and Prosecutor Dwyer questioned the relevance.

“I’ll allow a couple of questions,” Judge Oakley said.

Ruark asked if Toth produced the report on what was confiscated and Toth said it looks like his report.

“It’s beyond the scope of this hearing,” Dwyer stated.

“Where are the marijuana plants?” Ruark asked and Toth said they are destroyed. “Who destroyed them?” and Judge Oakley said not to answer that.

“How many plants are available today?” Ruark asked and Toth said there are 90.

Ruark asked if he had the right for 60 plants and Toth said yes. They seized six medical marijuana cards? And, Toth said yes and one was his wife’s card.

Ruark said his client was allowed 72 plants and Toth said that could be.

Ruark said police destroyed everything beyond the 90 plants. He asked who seized the marijuana and Toth said it was the Sumpter Township Police Department.

Ruark asked how much marijuana they took and Judge Oakley cut in, spieling off what was taken, adding, “I kept count.”

Ruark said he had no further questions for Toth and then Dwyer made a motion to bind Po over to circuit court. Ruark said he had a defense witness to call and called Officer Egerer.

Ruark asked Egerer who was at the scene

besides her and she said Detective Toth and Chief Luke and Officer Cox. He asked if the police had guns and she said they did.

“You were left behind?” Ruark asked, referring to Toth leaving the scene to get the search warrant and Egerer said yes.

She said Toth told her to detain people on scene to make sure everybody stayed and evidence was not destroyed.

Ruark asked if Egerer and Po talked after Ruark left and she said they talked about many things.

“He engaged me in conversation,” Egerer clarified. Ruark asked if they talked about marijuana and she said they did.

She said she told him not to talk because his attorney told him not to talk. But, he talked.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 18, 2016

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, and Trustee Miller. Absent/Excused: Trustee McClanahan. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Public Services Director Taylor, Consultant Sloan, Planning and Economic Development Director Akers, Executive Assistant Clair and an audience of fourteen.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda as amended removing item #7 [Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Township and Police Officers Labor Council (POLC) Command] from the Consent Agenda. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Combs, Budd, Hart, Jahr, and Miller. Nays: Wright. Absent/Excused: McClanahan. Motion Carried. Board Members expressed the desire to have additional time to review the contract and further discussion on the tentative agreements.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Budd moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as amended [Work Study Session Minutes of October 3, 2016, Closed Session Minutes of October 3, 2016, Board Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2016, Prepaid list of October 7, 2016, Prepaid list of October 13, 2016, Voucher list of October 18, 2016]. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Combs, Budd, Hart, Jahr and Miller. Nays: Wright. Absent/Excused: McClanahan. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Jahr moved, Miller seconded to open the Public Hearing at 7:11 p.m.to receive public comment on Resolution 2016-17 to reprogram (transfer) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation funds and create a new project (Demolition). Motion Carried. At this time there are at least two (2) condemned homes in the Township that have been ordered for demolition by the Building Official and are almost environmentally cleared for demolition. Upon approval of the Board and Wayne County the actual demolitions will be bid out and a lien will be placed on the property for the actual cost incurred. No public comment was received. Budd moved, Hart seconded to close the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Wright moved, Hart seconded to approve Resolution 2016-17 to

Egerer said Po told her Sumpter probably would destroy 100 to 180 plants. Then, she said, he talked about his customer in the Seven Mile/Southfield area and another guy from Ohio. He talked about a lot, she said.

Ruark asked if they read his client his Miranda Rights because he clearly was under arrest.

Egerer said they were there for an odor investigation.

Ruark concluded his questioning of Egerer and Dwyer said there is sufficient probable cause to bind Po over.

Ruark said on that day, his client was allowed 72 plants under the law and they preserved 90 and destroyed the rest. He

(continued on page 25)



City of Belleville Regular City Council Meeting Minutes October 3, 2016

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 7:30 P.M., at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Conley.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE
2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Council Member Tindall	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present
3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

- None
4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Loria, Second by Fielder to revise the agenda by adding the appointment of Monique Gary to the Civil Service Commission. It was noted that Ms. Gary lives in Harbor Pointe.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fielder, Second by Smith to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of September 6, 2016 as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

	None
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7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

	None
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8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Civil Service Commission Appointment
Motion by Fielder, Second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 16-104 appointing Monique Gary to the Civil Service Commission.

- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 16-105 to approve accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 for a total of \$2,001,473.55.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Fielder to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Scharf, City Clerk
Approved: October 17, 2016
Published: October 27, 2016



City of Belleville Work/Study Meeting Minutes October 3, 2016

A work/study meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 6 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Conley.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE
2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Council Member Tindall	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present
3. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Tom Colis from Miller Canfield and Kari Blanchett from The PFM Group provided options for the City of Belleville’s proposed road/street project. Council participants in a general discussion and the presenters agreed to provide formalized documents for the Council to review and offered to meet again to discuss, if needed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Fielder to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Scharf, City Clerk
Approved: October 17, 2016
Published: October 27, 2016

reprogram (transfer) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation funds and create a new project (Demolition) Motion Carried.

Wright moved, Hart seconded to approve a special land request for parcel V-125-83-118-99-0030-000 (1.0 acres) so that the R1-A property may operate as a group day care home. Motion Carried. The parcel is located at 6191 Rawsonville Rd. It is a private home where more than six (6) but not more than twelve (12) minor children are given care and supervision for periods of less than twenty-four hours a day and shall be registered with or licensed by the State of Michigan Bureau of Regulatory Services.

Miller moved, Hart seconded to approve the jobs description for the Building and Grounds Superintendent and the Personal Services Agreement between Jeff Fondaw and the Township and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Motion Carried. The position was posted internally following the resignation of William Turner. Mr. Fondaw has been employed with the Township for over 30 years and has performed many of the duties required by the position. His experience and performance with the Township, combined with the institutional knowledge he brings makes him an excellent candidate for the position.

REPORTS: The August 2016 Budgetary Report was received. Copies are available at the Clerk’s Office for review.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Treasurer Budd read a statement in response to a recent article in the Belleville Area Independent entitled “School Board audit turns up problem with VBT paperwork”. She assured the public that proper procedures and filing requirements were adhered to and encouraged fact checking before expressing allegations of misconduct. Clerk Wright encouraged residents to learn more about absentee voting, consider being added to the permanent absentee application list in order to automatically receive an application for all elections, dispelled myths regarding absentee voting and guaranteed that all ballots are counted in accordance with the law.

NON-AGENDA: Residents comments included: Support for the public safety millage, lack of support for the public safety millage and the equality of all members of the Board of Trustees.

ADJOURNMENT: Jahr moved, Hart seconded to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Linda Combs, Supervisor
Publish: October 27, 2016



City of Belleville Public Notice



Hillside Cemetery Advisory Committee

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

Flag Placement for Veterans Day 2016
8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 29th

The Cemetery Advisory Committee will be placing American Flags on the graves of all veterans who are buried at Hillside Cemetery.

The flag placement project will begin on Saturday, October 29th at 8:30 a.m.

Volunteers are needed to help place the flags. Each Cemetery section takes only about one hour of work - a small sacrifice for us to honor those who fought to keep us free.

Join us to help honor our veterans as we prepare for Veterans Day 2016, an important year in the history of defending our liberty.

Sherri Scharf
City Clerk/Treasurer

PUBLISH: October 20, 2016
October 27, 2016




City of Belleville Public Notice



City of Belleville City Council NOTICE OF VACANCY TO BE FILLED ON THE CITY COUNCIL



As of October 18, 2016, a vacancy exists on the Belleville City Council, resulting from the resignation of Council Member Kim Tindall. The City Charter requires the City Council to fill the vacancy within 30 days. The term of office for the vacancy will expire on December 4, 2017.

The City Council intends to fill the vacancy at a special City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at 6:00pm, after a review of applications submitted by citizens interested in the position. Application forms may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 6 Main Street, Belleville, Michigan 48111.

Requirements to serve on City Council are as follows:

- City resident for at least one (1) year
- Currently registered as a voter

Applications must be filed with the City Clerk no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2016.

Sherri Scharf
City Clerk/Treasurer

PUBLISH: October 20 & 27, 2016

Nelson Po

(continued from page 24)

said they destroyed the evidence and he did not have the opportunity to test for THC.

He said because the rest are destroyed, they can only count the 90 they have. Since he can have 72, there are 18 plants too many, which is a misdemeanor.

There is no probable cause he committed a felony, but there is a possible misdemeanor, Ruark said.

Dwyer argued that questions of fact are for the circuit court to decide.

"He was at the scene. He could have inspected the plants," Dwyer said of Ruark. "He had 254 plants," referring to Po.

"There was no opportunity to inspect," Ruark said. "They destroyed the evidence."

"I have no case law to say this," said Judge Oakley. "That is for a trier of fact down the road."

He ordered the case bound over to circuit court.

Gobel Dene Ratliff

Gobel Dene Ratliff, 72, will have his

preliminary exam in November on charges of possession of a weapon by a felon, assault with a dangerous weapon, and weapons/ felony firearm on Sept. 14 in Sumpter Township.

His retained attorney Jeremy Henner asked for a delay in the exam to get other items of discovery from Sumpter Township police. Detective Toth said the attorney could pick up the items he wanted later that same day.

Brandi Monique Christian

Brandi Monique Christian, 37, waived her preliminary exam on two counts of unauthorized driving away of a motor vehicle and one count of receiving and concealing a stolen motor vehicle on Sept. 30 in Van Buren Township.

She was ordered to appear at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit on Oct. 26. Christian is free on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond. Her court-appointed attorney is Kathleen Tulacz. VBT officer in charge of the case is Donovan McCarthy.

**One Call Does It All . . .
. . . At the Independent
699-9020**

Public Notice

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
301 East Louis Glick Highway
Jackson, Michigan 49201-1535

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) Water Resources Division (WRD) will hold a public hearing at the Charter Township of Ypsilanti, Civic Center Building, 1st floor Board Room, 7200 South Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti, Michigan on Thursday, November 3, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The purpose of this hearing is to secure the views of interested persons concerning the following application for permit:

Application for permit 2BV-3PQY-85ST under Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), by NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC. The applicant proposes to construct approximately 47 miles of 36-inch diameter natural gas pipeline within Lenawee, Monroe, and Washtenaw counties. The project will cross 31 wetlands and 90 waterbodies and affecting approximately 13.31 acres of wetland with temporary and permanent impacts. One permanent access road will cross a tributary to Tenmile Creek and one temporary access road will cross a tributary to Middle Branch Macon Creek. Mitigation is proposed. The project is located in Ogden, Palmyra, Blissfield, Deerfield, Ridgeway, and Macon Townships in Lenawee County; Milan Township and the City of Milan in Monroe County; and Augusta, York, and Ypsilanti Townships in Washtenaw County, Michigan.

The application is available for review on the MDEQ's Web site at: <https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us/>, or at the MDEQ, WRD, Jackson District Office, 301 East Louis Glick Highway, Jackson, Michigan, 49201-1535, or by calling 517-780-7690. The public hearing record will remain open for ten days after the public hearing date. Any written comments to be submitted for the public hearing record must be received at this address on or before the close of the record.

The hearing will be held pursuant to Section 30105 of Part 301 of the NREPA. The hearing will not be a legal proceeding, witnesses will not be sworn, and there will be no cross examination. Public hearings are primarily informational and are held to encourage the expression of views and presentation of facts.

The MDEQ will, upon written request, provide a copy of the MDEQ's decision on this application.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Water Resources Division

Date: October 5, 2016

NOTE: Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should call the telephone number listed above one week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Van Buren Township
Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 543 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Oct. 16:
0038 – private property incident, Southport
0130 – harassment call, Belleville Rd.
0213 – property damage accident, S. I-275/Ecorse
0358 – operating while intoxicated, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
0503 – holdup alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1038 – larceny from auto, Rawsonville Rd.
1513 – assault & battery, Huron River Dr.
1518 – neighbor trouble, Rose Blvd.
1549 – property damage accident, Bog/Presidential
1657 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
1919 – water leak found, Andover Dr.
1926 – shots fired, Wheeler St.
2009 – disturbance, Van Buren St.
2159 – neighbor trouble, Rose Blvd.
2310 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.
2345 – disturbance, Sumpter Rd.
Monday, Oct. 17:
0036 – suicide or attempt, Ormond Dr.
0402 – noise complaint, Village Green Ln.
1046 – neighbor trouble, Riggs Rd.
1157 – malicious destruction of property, Andover Dr.
1248 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1359 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
1814 – noise complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.
1826 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1838 – assault & battery, S. Timberview Dr.
1847 – personal injury accident, Hannan Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
1941 – missing person, Mott
2144 – malicious destruction of property, Bog Rd.
2305 – hospice, State St.
Tuesday, Oct. 18:
0003 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Hull
0109 – operating while intoxicated, N. I-94 Service Dr./Haggerty Rd.
0154 – shots fired, Haggerty Rd.
0534 – missing person, Western St.
1054 – agency assist, Rawsonville/Grove
1114 – fraud, Wilson Ave.
1138 – agency assist, Haggerty Rd.
1255 – larceny, Revere Dr.
1302 – private property accident, Beck
1353 – narcotics crime, Sheldon Rd.
1433 – larceny, Sawgrass Ct.
1651 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1710 – assault & battery, Hamilton Ct.
2014 – private property accident, Westlake
Wednesday, Oct. 19:
0724 – fraud, Harbour Pointe Ct.
1015 – assault & battery, Parkside Dr.
1021 – agency assist, Main St.
1124 – larceny, State St.
1247 – assault & battery, Belleville
1815 – dumping complaint, Hull Rd.
1838 – agency assist, N. Timberview Dr.
1849 – loitering, Michigan Ave.
2016 – property damage accident, Belleville
2138 – noise complaint, Cranberry
Thursday, Oct. 20:
0343 – retail fraud, Belleville
0422 – assault & battery, Ash Dr.
0718 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / McDonald’s
1044 – property damage accident, W I-94/rest area
1204 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1308 – sexual assault, Outer Dr.
1354 – agency assist, W. Wabash
1417 – family trouble, Arthur St.
1601 – fraud, Anna Dr.
1609 – harassment call, Lake Villa Dr.
1628 – fraud, Denton Rd.
1727 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1847 – animal bite, Jackson St.
1930 – suicide or attempt, Country Walk Blvd. / Camden Rd.
2006 – operating while intoxicated, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
Friday, Oct. 21:
0355 – private property accident, S. Schooner Dr.

0811 – larceny, Sumpter Rd.
0832 – assault & battery, Meadows Lane
1011 – property damage, Van Buren St.
1246 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1250 – larceny, Martinsville Rd.
1320 – assault & battery, Meadows
1626 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1738 – larceny, Jackson St.
2016 – personal injury accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
2147 – personal injury accident, Belleville
2227 – intimidation threat, Victoria St.
Saturday, Oct. 22:
0011 – noise complaint, Westlake
0209 – fight, W. Huron River Dr.
0325 – missing person, Sumpter Rd.
0509 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
0546 – fight, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0828 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Hannan
0844 – agency assist, Rawsonville
0941 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Oak Ln.
1403 – juvenile complaint, Tyler Rd./Belleville
1521 – private property incident, Industrial
1728 – disorderly conduct, Jackson St.
1822 – private property accident, Metro Park Party Store
1859 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2157 – shots fired, Camden Rd.
2159 – fight, Van Buren St.
2230 – disturbance, Rawsonville McDonald
Also on this week’s log are 228 traffic stops, including 44 at the Lakewood shopping center, 31 on the I-94 and I-275 freeways, and 11 on the Denton curves.

Belleville Police
Dispatch Log

Sunday, Oct. 16:
0302 – domestic assault, Carmell St.
1328 – breaking & entering, Loza Ln.
1404 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1634 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
1715 – assist fire dept., N. Edgemont Ave.
2000 – juvenile complaint, Carmell St.
Monday, Oct. 17:
0858 – malicious destruction of property, Biggs
1037 – suspicious person, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1112 – found property, Henry St.
1236 – private property incident, Anaheim
1555 – intrusion alarm, Victorian Ln.
1727 – background investigation, Main St.
2058 – disorderly conduct, Loza Ln.
2158 – intrusion alarm, W. Davis St.
2340 – suspicious situation, N. Liberty St.
Tuesday, Oct. 18:
0904 – fight, W. Columbia Ave.
0915 – juvenile complaint, Marathon
1015 – vehicle lockout, Savage
1242 – all other traffic, N. Edgemont Ave.
1317 – warrant arrest, Main St.
2039 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
Wednesday, Oct. 19:
0359 – property damage accident, Main St.
0632 – assist citizen, Belle Villa Blvd.
0941 – fraud, E. Huron River Dr.
1012 – assist fire dept., Main St.
1049 – assist fire dept., Owen St.
1230 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.
1344 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1400 – suicide or attempt, Astor
1601 – property damage accident, Owen/Sumpter
1823 – agency assist, N. Aberdeen Ct.
1941 – suspicious person, W. Davis St.
2042 – information, Main St.
Thursday, Oct. 20:
1102 – assist fire dept., Biggs Ave.
1340 – trespassing, Church St.
1351 – breaking & entering, W. Wabash Ave.
1502 – vehicle lockout, W. Columbia Ave.
1706 – mental, N. Edgemont Ave.
2100 – domestic assault, N. Liberty St.
2211 – noise complaint, N. Edgemont Ave.
2259 – vehicle lockout, Belle Villa
Friday, Oct. 21:
1053 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1124 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
1135 – assist fire dept., N. Edgemont Ave.
1257 – suicide or attempt, N. Edgemont Ave.
1507 – property damage accident, W. Columbia

1922 – property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave. / Edison Ave.
2000 – noise complaint, N. Liberty/Third St.
2050 – suspicious vehicle, W. Columbia Ave.
Saturday, Oct. 22:
0152 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
0158 – property damage accident, Henry St.
0806 – agency assist, W. Columbia Ave.
1240 – intrusion alarm, Owen
1557 – assist citizen, Sumpter Rd.
1815 – property damage accident, Main/First
2046 – fraud, Biggs Ave.
2049 – noise complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.
2222 – fraud, South St.
Also on this week’s log are 18 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township
Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Oct. 16:
0154 – property damage accident, 29000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0831 – assault, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1034 – shots fired, Rawsonville/Willow
1305 – shots fired, New Mexico
1331 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1359 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1417 – 911 hang up, 26000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1710 – larceny, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1746 – missing person, 50000 bl. Paris Dr.
2016 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
Monday, Oct. 17:
0026 – assist other agency, Clark/Judd
0123 – well-being check, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0241 – fire dpt. Assist, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
0908 – larceny, 21000 bl. Karr Rd.
1030 – larceny, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1112 – down wires, 24000 lb. Bohn Rd.
1312 – suspicious incident, 8800 Rawsonville Rd.
1334 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1355 – harassment complaint, Rustic Ln.
1504 – alarm, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1542 – assist other agency, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1553 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
1559 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2146 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
2225 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2317 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
Tuesday, Oct. 18:
0728 – citizen assist, Oakville Waltz/Karr
0914 – suspicious incident, Rustic Ln.
0929 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
0943 – abandoned vehicle, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1249 – ordinance violation, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1254 – citizen assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1329 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1340 – fire dept. assist, Montana
1402 – alarm, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1427 – suspicious incident, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1451 – harassment complaint, 23000 bl. Sherwood
1614 – subpoena service, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1756 – civil dispute, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1831 – suspicious person, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2004 – traffic hazard, Karr/Arkona
2127 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
2202 – assist other agency, out of township
2325 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Willis
Wednesday, Oct. 19:
0820 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1012 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1113 – animal complaint, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1402 – suspicious incident, Nevada
1511 – parking complaint, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1556 – identity theft complaint, 25000 bl. Sumpter
Thursday, Oct. 20:
0045 – family trouble, Pecan
1022 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1029 – well-being check, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1117 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1211 – suspicious vehicle, 18000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1504 – parking complaint, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1518 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1800 – 911 hang up, 6300 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
1943 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2022 – well-being check, 18000 bl. Lohr Rd.
2102 – alarm, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
Friday, Oct. 21:
0535 – malicious destruction of property, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.

0710 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1002 – death investigation, Rustic Ln.
1137 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1311 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.
1346 – suspicious vehicle, 51000 bl. Judd Rd.
1558 – malicious destruction of property, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1618 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2031 – property damage accident, 51000 bl. Willis
2145 – citizen assist, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
Saturday, Oct. 22:
0502 – disorderly person, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
1022 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1030 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1122 – assist other agency, out of township
1125 – assist other agency, Oakville Waltz / Sumpter
1231 – suspicious person, 43000 bl. Wear Rd.
1254 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1353 – larceny, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
1816 – suspicious incident, 20000 bl. Martinsville
1914 – neighbor dispute, Colorado
2259 – suspicious vehicle, Rawsonville/Willow
Also on this week’s log are 20 follow-up investigations, 55 miscellaneous details, 138 patrol checks, and 46 traffic stops.

Belleville/Van Buren
Goodfellows applications
for assistance starts Nov. 7

Applications to receive assistance for the 2016 Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows Christmas Food and Toy Distribution Program will begin 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 7, at the Van Buren Township Police Department. Application forms will be available at the front desk. Printable forms will also be available online on the Van Buren Township website at www.vanburen-mi.org .
The program is open to Belleville City and Van Buren Township residents only. Sumpter Township has its own Goodfellows’ program.
Families may apply immediately, or pick up forms and apply later, anytime 24/7 after 9 a.m., Monday, Nov. 7.
You must apply in person at the Police Department with proof of residency, such as driver’s license, State ID or current utility bill showing name and address.
Call-in, mail-in, or emailed applications will not be accepted.
Applications for assistance will close Friday, Dec. 2, at 3 p.m.
For more information or questions about the Goodfellows’ program, call Pam Fleming at (734) 699-8934, week days, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Pam Fleming, Coordinator

BACA Art show
deadline extended
until Friday, Oct. 28

The deadline has been extended until Friday, Oct. 28, to file applications to become a part of the Nov. 4-6 Community Art Show at the Belleville Yacht Club.
Applications will be accepted at the Belleville Area District Library.
The event is being put on by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.
This is the show’s schedule:
Friday, Nov. 4: Meet the artists at the Art Show reception, 7-9 p.m. Refreshments and cash bar. Art show awards at 7:30 p.m.
Community Art Show continues Saturday, Nov. 5, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 6, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Entry to the Art Show is free of charge.

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Thursday, October 27, 7 p.m.

At the Belleville Area District Library

167 Fourth Street

Belleville, MI 48111



TOP 3

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PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT**

- ✓ **MAINTAIN LOW EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES.**
- ✓ **MAINTAIN LOW INSURANCE RATES.**
- ✓ **MAINTAIN PAYING ONE OF THE LOWEST MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES IN WAYNE COUNTY AND HAVING SOME OF THE HIGHEST PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES.**

Vote "YES" November 8, 2016
WITHOUT YOUR VOTE THERE WILL BE NO REVENUE
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Our Neighboring Communities Local Tax Rates

Community	Local Tax Rate (Mills)*
City of Westland	18.8823 Municipal Mills
City of Belleville	18.1260 Municipal Mills
Ypsilanti Township	14.9681 Municipal Mills
City of Romulus	13.5579 Municipal Mills
Canton Township	10.9000 Municipal Mills
Van Buren Township	7.4144 Municipal Mills (Proposed)
Van Buren Town EXPIRED	4.9144 Municipal Mills (Current)
Sumpter Township	4.7904 Municipal Mills

*Millage rates given reflect ONLY municipal rate
(Excludes the rates of all other taxing jurisdictions, i.e., county, schools, etc.)

Data Sources:

- 2015 Apportionment Report, Charter County of Wayne
- Washtenaw County 2015 Apportionment Report

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44035 S I-94 SERVICE DR, VAN BUREN BELLEVILLE LAKE! - FULL BRICK HOME, 3 Bedroom (Possible 4th), 2 Baths, 1,845 Square Feet, Basement, Two Enclosed Porches, Two Kitchens, Stoves, Refrigerators and Living Rooms. More than 1 Acre, 65 Feet of Lake Frontage, 2 1/2 Car Garage And Much More. The Most Affordable Home on Belleville Lake. \$259,900.

BELLEVILLE LAKE



43989 S I-94 SERVICE DR, VAN BUREN PROFESSIONALLY DESIGNED for Optimum Living and Lakefront Enjoyment. Features 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Two Fireplaces, Two Kitchens, Central Vacuum, 1.63 Acres with more than 182 Feet of Lake Frontage with Newer Seawall. 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage Plus Large Heated Workshop. \$624,900

BELLEVILLE LAKE



42490 E HURON RIVER DR, VAN BUREN ONLY THE BEST FEATURES plus LAKE ACCESS WITHOUT HIGH TAXES. Immaculate 4 Bedroom 3 Bath Brick Home. Updated Kitchen w/Granite, hardwood floor impressive 3 Sided Gas Fireplace. Family Room, Entertainment Deck and fenced back yard with a Great View of Belleville Lake plus a Shared Dock. \$349,900

30x60 POLE BARN



9191 RAWSONVILLE, SUMPTER LIVE THE BETTER COUNTRY LIFE and All of the Extras. Featuring Huge Rooms, Impressive Hardwood Floors, Large and Open Kitchen, FULL Basement and More. 1.3 Acres, 30x60 Pole Barn (with Electric and Cement Floor), Paved Street and Immediate Possession. \$189,900

UPDATED CLASSIC DESIGN



6315 DENTON, VAN BUREN CLASSIC LINES AND TIMELESS DESIGN. Impressive and Updated 4 Bedroom Victorian Home with Wrap Porch Master Bedroom with Fireplace, Hardwood Floors, Basement, High Energy Efficient Furnace and Updating Everywhere. 2 1/2 Car Garage PLUS Bonus Second Home w 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. \$194,900

3 BR - 2 BA + POLE BARN



18730 SAVAGE, SUMPTER BEST OF COUNTRY LIVING in this 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath brick and vinyl ranch on 2.18 Acres. 1500+ Square Feet, with Huge Family Room, Two Fireplaces, Skylights, plus 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage. Paved Street, TWO LOTS plus Pole Barn with Entertainment Upper Area and Priced to Sell at \$209,900

3 LOTS - BELLEVILLE



242 CHURCH, BELLEVILLE TRIPLE LOT AND CHARACTER-RICH with original details. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Larger Kitchen, Impressive Formal Dining Room with Large Living Room, Fireplace, Hardwood Floors and Basement. This home includes, Big 3 Car Garage, Rear Deck & Fish Pond. NOW \$229,900.

UPGRADED EVERYWHERE



5872 CRYSTAL LAKE, ROMULUS EXTREME UPGRADED HOME, 3 Bedrooms (one is a study), First Floor Master Bedroom, Custom Lighting and Blinds, Bamboo Flooring throughout Entire Home, Upgraded Kitchen with 42" Cabinets, Granite Counter Tops and Barstool Extension, Custom Stone Gas Fireplace with Mantle and Basement. BEAUTIFUL! \$165,000.

UPDATED AND 2+ ACRES



23260 KARR, SUMPTER IMPRESSIVE AND UPDATED 4 Bedroom 2 Bath Ranch with Granite Counter Tops & SS Appliance. Large Living Room with Fireplace, and Hardwood Floors. Formal Dining Room Master Bath with Jetted Tub and Separate Shower. Central air and ceiling fans, Attached Garage, Shed and on 2.2 Acres. \$209,900

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20700 GENTZ, HURON TOWNSHIP EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER WANTED AND MORE! Updated with Fresh Paint and New Carpet. Large Huron Township 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Ranch featuring Family Room, Formal Dining Area, Master Bedroom with Huge Queen Size Master Bath. 2 1/2 Car Garage, Large One Acre Yard, Huron Schools and Paved Street. \$134,900.

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VACANT MCKEAN 11+ ACRES \$85,000
RAWSONVILLE & JUDD 78 AC \$400,000
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
VACANT KARR ROAD 5 ACRES \$35,000
26455 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308 \$35,000

25817 SUMPTER RD. 97 ACRES \$20,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000
45885 BEMIS PAVED BUIDABLE LOT \$25,000
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES \$30,000
20743 GRIFFIN COURT 1.4 AC \$29,500
ELWELL ACROSS FRM 29300 10AS\$9,500

42915 WILLIS 4 SPLITS \$30,000 TO \$40,000
49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000
BEMIS BY SAVAGE TWO 6 ACRES \$65,000
VINEY AND SIBLEY 21+ ACRES \$450,000
WILLOW ROAD 1.36 ACRES \$25,000
BOHN NEAR DUNN 5 ACRES \$29,000

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
45109 S SERVICE DRIVE HUGE FRONTAGE 2.29 ACRES. SUPER DEVELOPMENT PARCEL WITH ALL UTILITIES \$287,500
47441 MARTZ ROAD 17+ ACRES \$176,000
VACANT BOG ROAD .55 ACRES \$29,750

VACANT BOG ROAD 1.36 ACRES \$30,000
VACANT BOG RD 12.83 ACRES \$129,000
6422 GILMORE 82X165 LOT WITH WATER AND SEWER - PRICED RIGHT AT \$15,000
739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES \$35,000
5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES \$31,000

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